



Woking Joint Committee

Together shaping our Borough

6.00pm – 8.00pm
Wednesday, 23 June 2021

Woking Borough Council Civic Offices
Gloucester Square
Woking, Surrey, GU21 6YL

Surrey County Council Appointed Members

Ayesha Azad, Woking South-West (Chairman)
Liz Bowes, Woking South East
Amanda Boote, The Byfleets
Saj Hussain, Knaphill and Goldsworth West
Will Forster, Woking South
Riasat Khan, Woking North
Lance Spencer, Goldsworth East and Horsell

Woking Borough Council Appointed Members

Borough Councillor Simon Ashall, Heathlands (Vice-Chairman)
Borough Councillor Tahir Aziz, Canalside
Borough Councillor Ann-Marie Barker, Goldsworth Park
Borough Councillor Colin Kemp, Horsell Ward
Borough Councillor Josh Brown, Byfleet and West Byfleet
Borough Councillor Deborah Hughes, Hoe Valley
Borough Councillor Ellen Nicholson, Mount Hermon

Chief Executive
Julie Fisher
Woking Borough Council

Chief Executive
Joanna Killian
Surrey County Council

You can get involved in the following ways

Ask a question

If there is something you wish know about how your council works or what it is doing in Woking, you can ask the joint committee a question about it on our social media pages. If an answer cannot be given at the meeting, they will make arrangements for you to receive an answer either before or at the next formal meeting.

Write a question

You can also put your question to the joint committee in writing. The partnership committee officer must receive it a minimum of 4 working days in advance of the meeting.

When you arrive at the meeting let the partnership committee officer (detailed below) know that you are there for the answer to your question. The committee chairman will decide exactly when your answer will be given and may invite you to ask a further question, if needed, at an appropriate time in the meeting.

Get involved

Sign a petition

If you live, work or study in Woking and have a local issue of concern, you can petition the joint committee and ask it to consider taking action on your behalf. Petitions should have at least 30 signatures and should be submitted to the partnership committee officer 2 weeks before the meeting. You will be asked if you wish to outline your key concerns to the committee and will be given 3 minutes to address the meeting. Your petition may either be discussed at the meeting or alternatively, at the following meeting.

Thank you for coming to the Woking Joint Committee meeting

Your Partnership Committee Officer is here to help. If you would like to talk about something in today's meeting or have a local initiative or concern please contact them through the channels below.

Email: Nicola.Thorntonbryar@surreycc.gov.uk
Tel: 01276 800269

MOBILE TECHNOLOGY AND FILMING – ACCEPTABLE USE

Those attending for the purpose of reporting on the meeting may use social media or mobile devices in silent mode to send electronic messages about the progress of the public parts of the meeting.

Anyone is permitted to film, record or take photographs at council meetings. Please liaise with the council officer listed in the agenda prior to the start of the meeting so that those attending the meeting can be made aware of any filming taking place.

Use of mobile devices, including for the purpose of recording or filming a meeting, is subject to no interruptions, distractions or interference being caused to the PA or Induction Loop systems, or any general disturbance to proceedings. The Chairman may ask for mobile devices to be switched off in these circumstances.

It is requested that if you are not using your mobile device for any of the activities outlined above, it be switched off or placed in silent mode during the meeting to prevent interruptions and interference with PA and Induction Loop systems.

Thank you for your co-operation

Broadcasting on the Web

Please note the meeting will be filmed and will be broadcast live and subsequently as an archive on the Council's website (www.woking.gov.uk, www.surreycc.gov.uk/webcasts). The images and sound recording may be used for training purposes within the Council. The broadcast will be stopped if any confidential/Part II items on the agenda are reached. Generally the public seating areas are not filmed. However by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area, you are consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

The Chairman of the meeting has the discretion to terminate or suspend filming, if in his/her opinion continuing to do so would prejudice the proceedings of the meeting or, on advice, considers that continued filming might infringe the rights of any individual.

As cameras are linked to the microphones, could Members ensure they switch their microphones on before they start to speak and off when finished and do not remove the cards which are in the microphones.

The agenda for the meeting is set out below.

If you would like a copy of this agenda or the attached papers in another format, e.g. large print, Braille, or another language please call Nikkie Thornton-Bryar, Partnership Committee Officer on 01483 404788 or write to nicola.thorntonbryar@surreycc.gov.uk

This is a meeting in public. If you would like to attend and you have any special requirements, please contact us using the above contact details.

OPEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members of the public and local businesses are invited to ask questions of Councillors about council services in the community. Due to social distancing, these questions can be asked by email or on social media prior to the meeting and will be answered under item 6. If answers cannot be provided on the evening, then a written reply will be provided after the meeting.

AGENDA – 6pm

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The current Chair (Ayesha Azad, SCC) will invite nominations for a Chair from Woking Borough Council and will hand over the chairmanship (to serve for 2 years).

The new Chair will invite nominations for a Vice Chair from Surrey County Council (to serve for 2 years).

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record and agree that the Chairman signs the minutes.

(Pages 1
- 10)

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members present are required to declare, at this point in the meeting or as soon as possible thereafter:

- i. Any disclosable pecuniary interests and / or
- ii. Other interests arising under the Code of Conduct in respect of any item(s) of business being considered at this meeting

NOTES:

- Members are bound by the Code of Conduct of the authority which appointed them to the Woking Joint Committee.
- Members are reminded that they must not participate in any item where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest
- As well as an interest of the Member, this includes any interest, of which the Member is aware, that relates to the Member's spouse or civil partner (or any person with whom the Member is living as a spouse or civil partner)
- Members with a significant personal interest may participate in the discussion and vote on that matter unless that interest could be reasonably regarded as prejudicial.
- SCC Members must notify SCC's Monitoring Officer of any interests disclosed at the meeting which are not already recorded in the Register of Members' Interests. WBC Members must notify WBC's Monitoring Officer of any interests disclosed at the meeting which are not already recorded in the Register of Members' Interests.

5 PETITIONS

To receive any petitions in accordance with Standing Order 14.1. Notice should be given in writing or by email to the Community Partnership and Committee Officer at least 14 days before the meeting. Alternatively, the petition can be submitted on-line through Surrey County Council or Woking Borough Council's e-petitions website as long as the minimum number of signatures (30) has been reached 14 days before the meeting.

No petitions have been received for this meeting.

6 ANY PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To answer any questions from residents or businesses within the Woking Borough area in accordance with Standing Order 14.2. Notice should be given in writing or email to the Community Partnership and Committee Officer by 12 noon four working days before the meeting.

The committee will also consider any questions received on social media, in the absence of a public forum.

7 MEMBER QUESTIONS

To receive any written questions from members under Standing Order 13. The deadline for member questions is 12 noon four working days before the meeting.

8 RIGHTS OF WAY ITEM - DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 005 (AT DEEP POOL FARM) (Pages 11 - 26)

Rights of Way Items are subject to strict rules and regulations and a short information session will take place to ensure that members are up to date with these prior to discussion on this item

The report seeks a decision on whether to make a legal order to divert Footpath No. 5 (Woking).

Two objections have been maintained to an informal consultation and the officer's recommendation is that an Order should be made on the grounds that it is in the interests of the landowner and the public.

9 TASK GROUPS AND MEMBERSHIP (Pages 27 - 40)

To review the terms of reference and membership of the task groups.

10 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - BRIEF UPDATE

A brief update paper will be circulated to remind members and brief new members of the process for expenditure of the Neighbourhood part of CIL.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY (Pages 41 - 102)

To agree the Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

12 ACTION TRACKER (Pages 103 - 106)

To review the action tracker.

13 FORWARD PLAN (Pages

To review the forward plan.

107 -
108)

Minutes of the meeting of the
Woking JOINT COMMITTEE
 held at 6.00 pm on 24 March 2021
 at VIRTUAL.

These minutes are subject to confirmation by the Committee at its next meeting.

Surrey County Council Members:

- * Ayesha Azad (Chairman)
- * Liz Bowes
- * Amanda Boote
- Mr Ben Carasco
- * Saj Hussain
- * Will Forster
- * Colin Sidney Kemp

Borough / District Members:

- * Borough Councillor Simon Ashall (Vice-Chairman)
- * Cllr David Bittleston
- * Cllr Gary Elson
- * Borough Councillor Tahir Aziz
- * Borough Councillor Ann-Marie Barker
- * Cllr Graham Chrystie
- Cllr Melanie Whitehand

* In attendance

22/20 PUBLIC FORUM [Item]

A public forum was held prior to the formal meeting.

6 questions were raised: –

1. Andy Grimshaw re blocked footpath in Pyrford
2. Andy Grimshaw re an unauthorised scrapyard
3. Andy Grimshaw re parking at Marshalls Parade
4. Andy Grimshaw re damage to grass verges
5. Carl Thomson re item 4 (petition) on the agenda – to be taken at that point
6. Cllr Will Forster on behalf of a resident re traffic using Witch Hill Lane

The notes of the full questions raised and the answers given are attached to these minutes as Annex A.

23/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE [Item 1]

Cllr Melanie Whitehand gave her apologies.

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24/20 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING [Item 2]

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 20 November 2020 were agreed. It was noted that Cllr Ashall was vice chair of that meeting (not Cllr Bittleston as listed).

25/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST [Item 3]

There were none.

26/20 PETITIONS [Item 4]

ITEM 4A

Petition to 'review the traffic arrangements in Goldsworth Road at the junction with Poole Road, Woking, to prevent the access to McDonald's drive-through restaurant causing access problems to homes and businesses and gridlock to the traffic in that area at busy times.'

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: One petition as detailed.

The petitioner, Lance Spencer attended the meeting to present the petition, raising the inconvenience to residents, Morrisons shoppers and the blocking of emergency access by queueing traffic.

The Area Highways Manager assured the petitioner that this had been very carefully considered in detail with WBC Officers, Surrey Police, Fire service and Road Safety. Since the petition was raised, the traffic had alleviated. Traffic modelling would not be warranted for a temporary issue that only occurs infrequently.

Councillors noted that McDonalds had taken steps to assist by allowing drive through customers to park up and await their food. Lockdown was due to lift at the beginning of April which would also improve the situation. Councillors would continue to review the situation and to work with McDonalds to try to find alternative solutions as the situation evolved. Woking Borough Council had a travel plan attached to the planning application, but this covered staff travel and not customer traffic. The County Council had raised issues at the planning stage, but these were not reasons to reject the planning application.

The Joint Committee noted that:

- (i) Meetings were held prior to the reopening of the McDonald's Drive-thru to discuss possible measures to minimise the impact of queueing traffic.

- (ii) No options could be identified for segregating McDonald's traffic from traffic that was either passing along Goldworth Road or trying to access Morrison's.
- (iii) Another meeting will be held to review the situation and identify any possible alternative routes to McDonald's.
- (iv) The cost of any traffic management measures should not be borne by Surrey County Council

ITEM 4B

Petition to 'trial the reduction in speed limit to 20 mph in White Rose Lane, Mount Hermon Road, York Road and roads ancillary to those roads.'

Declarations of Interest: None

Officers attending: Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager, SCC

Petitions, Public Questions, Statements: One petition as detailed

Woking Borough Councillor Liam Lyons presented the petition which repeated a request from residents of White Rose Lane for speed reduction in that area. He outlined that other areas and London boroughs had different speed policies that allowed 20mph zones to be introduced. The road had no pavement and was used by school children.

Mr Carl Thomson, resident of the area and former Borough Councillor also spoke in support of the petition.

Members discussed at length the issues of the area and how to further gather residents views, noting that the introduction of speed limits or mitigation measures could impact negatively on surrounding roads, and the fact that there were similar issues in other parts of the Town. It was noted that the focus should be on White Rose Lane (and later Park Road) as the ancillary roads around there might be part of a HIF project for funding.

Members also discussed that, subject to agreement by the Mount Hermon Borough and County Councillors, the Joint Committee could explore the possibility of using Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy funds to design, consult upon and implement, if approved by consultation, speed restrictions (including a 20 mph zone) for Park Road and White Rose Lane. It was noted that these funds were for Mount Hermon ward and therefore the expenditure on

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a small area would need to be considered as part of a whole package (including the HIF bid fund).

The Joint Committee were aware that this was contrary to the SCC speed limit policy, but did discuss whether an exception could be made, on the understanding that this did not set a precedent. Two county councillors (Will Forster and Liz Bowes) proposed resolutions for 20 MPH for Park Rd and White Rose Lane, the other councillors agreed and the chairman stated that there was cross party agreement for 20 MPH for both of these roads.

Although the discussion showed clear support for action, the way forward was dependent on a number of issues being clarified and worked through.

The Joint Committee noted that:

- (i) It would be impractical to trial a 20mph speed limit in a road, as opposed to permanently reducing the speed limit, because the amount of work required for assessment, advertising and implementation, as well as the associated cost, is similar in both instances.
- (ii) White Rose Lane, Mount Hermon Road and York Road are all included in the Woking speed management plan. Speed surveys previously undertaken in both roads indicate a relatively good level of compliance with the speed limit but with speeds too high to permit a 20mph speed limit in accordance with Surrey County Council's Speed Limit Policy.
- (iii) Residents' concerns will be discussed with officers of the Speed Management Plan review group and new speed surveys will be requested to include Park Road.**
- (iv) Vehicle speeds and road safety will continue to be monitored in White Rose Lane, Mount Hermon Road and York Road, as they are for all sites on the Woking speed management plan.
- (v) Petitions have previously been received for a 20mph speed limit along White Rose Lane in 2014 and 2017 and in both instances, the Woking Joint Committee agreed to take no further action.

However, the Joint Committee also agreed to:

Delegate to Officers to agree, in consultation with the Area Highways Manager, the way forward (including CIL bids for funds) in full consultation with Members.

This would need to be subject to call in with the Cabinet Member and, if agreed, a further report to the Committee at the next meeting, giving details of potential possible schemes for consultation, the costs involved and sources for funding and delivering these schemes. An update on the HIF bid progress for Mount Hermon Road and York Road would also need to be included.

27/20 WRITTEN PUBLIC QUESTIONS [Item 5]

Five written public questions were received and the full questions and written answers given were included in the agenda pack and later on the supplementary agenda:-

1. Linda Murray re Mcdonalds traffic (in addition to petition 4a)
2. Phil Stubbs re Brookwood Country Park
3. Adam Kirby re footpaths – safety and lighting
4. Kate Wright re footpaths and lighting
5. Marian Malcher re climate change

The additional questions asked and discussion were:

Question 1 – Ms Murray did not attend the meeting but Cllr Aziz spoke on her behalf and highlighted the issue of queueing traffic as discussed under item 4a – the petition.

Question 2 – Mr Stubbs did not attend the meeting but Cllr Hussain asked whether Cala homes could be encouraged to undertake these works.

Question 3 – Mr Kirby highlighted the low level anxiety regarding safety of footpaths. The last train from London into Woking arrived at 1am and the footpaths into Horsell were not alight at this hour. He urged that further work be undertaken on the short stretches of routes identified as a small amount of work would really assist with feelings of safety.

It was noted that this issue was being raised in a number of ways, including on social media and was of concern to local residents. It was agreed that each area needed to be looked at individually to find suitable solutions.

28/20 WRITTEN MEMBER QUESTIONS [Item 6]

8 Written member questions were received and the full questions and answers given can be found on the agenda and the supplementary papers:

1. Cllr Will Forster re roads in Kingsmoor Park
2. Cllr Will Forster re speed limit on A320 in Barnsbury and Mayford
3. Cllr Will Forster re roads / resurfacing
4. Cllr Will Forster re pavement at Bonsey Close
5. Cllr Ann-Marie Barker re Safer Streets fund
6. Cllr Ann-Marie Barker re Active Travel
7. Cllr Ann-Marie Barker re Bus services
8. Cllr Graham Chrystie re school places in Woking

The points discussed and additional questions raised were:-

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Question 1 – A further update was given and it was noted that the development in question had a number of outstanding “snagging” items to be completed before the final inspection could be made – the roads therefore, at present, remain unadopted by SCC Highways.

Questions 3 – As Whitmore Lane is to be resurfaced, is this an opportunity to make improvements on the grounds of safety?

Question 5 – It was noted that the criteria for applications – including crime figures were set by central government and this was available on their website

Question 8 – The Officer was thanked for a very comprehensive response. Concerns were raised around schools having different policies for siblings. It was noted that Hoe Valley school was working above capacity and further clarification on this would be sought.

29/20 HIGHWAYS UPDATE [Item 7]

The AHM highlighted the report and welcomed questions from Members. It was noted that the Horsell 20mph scheme was listed at £32,000 but it was believed that this was also subject to additional CIL funding. Councillors were keen that CIL money be used to benefit local communities and that this could include Highway improvements, if appropriate.

The Woking Joint Committee agreed to:

- i) Note the progress with schemes and revenue funded works for the 2020/21 financial year.
- ii) Note the budgetary position.
- iii) Note that a further Highways Update will be brought to the next meeting of this Committee.
- iv) Agree the proposed capital works programme for 2020/21, shown in Table * and as agreed at the informal meeting of the Woking Joint Committee on 10 March 2021.
- v) Agree that authority is delegated to the Area Highways Manager to allocate the £100,000 capital maintenance budget to support the implementation of the capital maintenance programme for 2021/22.
- vi) Authorise the Area Highways Manager to undertake all necessary actions to deliver the capital works programme, consulting with the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Divisional Members where necessary.

Reasons for decisions

The decisions are made to enable progression of all highway related schemes and works.

30/20 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - UPDATE ON DECISIONS FROM THE SUB GROUP AND HOOK HEATH APPLICATION APPROVAL [Item 8]

Councillors noted the Hook Heath CIL application and thanked the residents involved in putting the bid together. It was noted that the process was working well for small applications and that County and Borough Councillors were working together to progress these. Cllr Chrystie stated that this had worked very well for Pryford Cricket club which was a very good example of a community project. Ernest Amaoko was thanked for his input to the sub group.

Working Joint Committee:

- (i) Noted the applications determined by the Sub Group and its decisions to date.
- (ii) Agreed the Hook Heath CIL application for £15,000.

Reasons for decisions:

To keep the Joint Committee informed of the decisions of the Sub Group and the applications to date and to agree the one application that was above the limit of the group.

31/20 DECISION AND ACTION TRACKER [Item 9]

The decision tracker was noted.

It was noted that the taxi rank bays in the town were still listed as outstanding and Councillor Kemp stated that he had been working with Borough Officers around the mix of disabled bays and taxi bays at the station. This would remain on the decision tracker until resolved.

32/20 FORWARD PLAN [Item 10]

The forward plan was noted. Cllrs were keen that the cycling item be discussed in due course.

Government guidance was that meetings should resume to in person meetings, so Officers were working on making this happen safely for the June meeting.

Meeting ended at: 9.00 pm

Chairman

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Annex A**Woking Joint Committee**
24 March 2021
Open Public Question Time

3 Members of the public registered for the public forum and 6 questions were raised: –

Andy Grimshaw
Carl Thompson
Norman Johns

The members of the public joined the meeting for the first half hour and then left to watch the rest on the webcast.

Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4 : Andy Grimshaw, Pyrford resident

Footpath Blockage - Over the last year, many people have spent more time at home and walking locally. In Pryford, many landowners have allowed the right to roam, across golf courses etc, but one landowner, the owner of Twisted Stone has installed a fence and kissing gate across a right of way. I have raised this with the Countryside team at Surrey County Council, who have done a site visit, but I have not had a further response from them yet.

Scrap yard – there is a site close to the Twisted Stone, which is within the green belt, which now appears being used as a scrapyard. I have raised this with WBC as it looks like a business within a green site.

Marshall Parade – At this parade of shops there has been lots more parking and this has caused problems. Residents staying at home are using the bays. I have made parking review requests for additional Double Yellow Lines via the parking reviews but these have not been progressed and I wondered if they could they be reviewed again

Grass verges - Delivery lorries and home improvements in Pyrford have caused damage to grass verges within estates around Pryford and I wondered what SCC plans to do to repair and re-instate these.

The chair thanked the resident for raising these issues and highlighted that the Borough Councillor was involved in with the scrap yard issue.

Cllr Liz Bowes spoke about the verge issue – there was SCC Highways planned pavement work on the Lovelace estate and she would get Highways to look at verge repairs – possibly funded from her Councillors allocation.

Cllr Graham Chrystie urged residents to take up verge damage with any contractors that they use and Cllr Gary Elson had already spoken to some contractors / properties on this.

Cllr Liz Bowes referred to the Marshalls Parade issue and asked Mr Grimshaw to provide her with details that she could take this up with the Parking team.

Cllr Graham Chrystie also spoke about the scrapyard on the greenkeepers facility, which had taken WBC 2 years to get sorted, but assured the questioner that the items were due to be removed and they were continuing to monitor the site.

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Cllr Gary Elson also assured Mr Grimshaw that the scrapyards usage had been taken up by WBC and was under investigation (with residents providing evidence to the Borough).

The issue of the footpath would be chased up outside the meeting

Question 5: Carl Thompson

I refer to Agenda item 4 and would like to speak on this matter on the agenda.

The Chair agreed to take this with the agenda item.

Question 6: Cllr Will Forster asked a question on behalf of a resident (Ian) of Witch Hill Lane

I would like to raise the issue of the level of traffic using Witch Hill Lane, particularly as a result of town centre developments and diversions. What impact assessments have been carried out as a result of the Victoria Square development?

I would particularly like to raise concerns about the pending Victoria Arch closure and what can be done about traffic diversions for this?

Answer from Andrew Milne, Area Highways Manager

With any development there are always formally agreed diversion routes, but it is inevitable that people with local knowledge will diverge off this and they are legally entitled to do this.

We are working with the Borough on this, but I would need to consult with Borough colleagues over specific plans for any potential Victoria Arch closures.

LOCAL COMMITTEE (WOKING)**DATE: 23 JUNE 2021****LEAD OFFICER: DANIEL WILLIAMS COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS OFFICER****SUBJECT: PROPOSED DIVERSION OF FOOTPATH 5 (WOKING)****DIVISION: GOLDSWORTH EAST AND HORSELL VILLAGE****SUMMARY OF ISSUE:**

This report seeks a decision on whether to make a legal order to divert Footpath No. 5 (Woking).

Two objections have been maintained to an informal consultation.

The officer's recommendation is that an Order should be made on the grounds that it is in the interests of the landowner and the public.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to agree that:

- (i) A diversion order is made under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert Public Footpath No. 5 (Woking) as shown on Drawing No. 3/1/79/H68A.
- (ii) If any objections are received and maintained to the Order it should be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for determination.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

Officers are of the view that the criteria for making a diversion order have been met. At present the path crosses an area being developed for stabling. The new route, 3m in width, will improve security for the property and provide a path that will no longer be shared with vehicles accessing the property.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:**Legal position:**

- 1.1 Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 enables the County Council to divert a public footpath if it appears to the council that it is in the interests of the landowner, lessee or occupier of the land crossed by the path or way or of the public and it is expedient that the line of the path should be diverted.
- 1.2 Subsequently, if any order is to be confirmed (which should not influence committee's decision at this stage), the confirming authority must be satisfied

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(at s. 119(6) of the 1980 Act) not just that the diversion is expedient as regards the above, but also that it will not be substantially less convenient to the public and expedient to confirm with regard to the effect which:

- a) the diversion would have on public enjoyment of the path or way as a whole,
- b) the coming into operation of the order would have as respects other land served by the existing public right of way, and
- c) any new public right of way created by the order would have as respects the land over which the right is so created and any land held with it.

- 1.3 In addition to the criteria set out in the Highways Act 1980 the County Council's policy states that, except in exceptional circumstances, diversion orders will only be made where they result in an improvement to the existing rights of way network for the public. The needs of less able users must also be taken into account.
- 1.4 The NERC Act 2006 places a duty on the County Council to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of the functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity.
- 1.5 Under the Equality Act 2010 the Council must consider the needs of those with mobility impairments when managing rights of way and access.

The application and consultations:

- 1.6 An application dated 24 February 2020 to divert part of public footpath No. 5 (Woking) was received from Mr and Mrs Howard of Deep Pool Farm, Deep Pool Lane, Chobham. The definitive route is shown A-B with a solid black line and is 241 metres in length. The proposed route is shown A-C and is 231 metres in length. In support of the application the applicant states:
 - a. It is in the interests of safety for all reasons regarding horses on the land and for security.
 - b. They have stallions which may attack dogs and hope moving the path will prevent future problems. If dogs are let off their leads near livestock this can be a problem in and around the farm.
 - c. By diverting the path it gives them protection against rural crime.

Objections and representations:

- 1.7 On 3 March 2020 an informal consultation lasting 28 days took place with regard to this route. Due to the number of objections received to this the landowner proposed the alternative diversion route being considered here. The original application route will be considered no further.
- 1.8 The diversion was applied for in the interests of the landowner and the public. At the present the applicant states that the path crosses an area that is being developed with new stabling. The proposed new route will improve security for the property and provide a path that will no longer be shared with vehicles accessing the property and horses.
- 1.9 A second round of consultation for 28 days took place from 2 June 2020. It was proposed that A-B is diverted to the line as shown A-C on the attached

drawing No. 3/1/79/H68A. Two objections have been maintained to this second proposal which are outlined below.

1.10 Mr Andrew Carapiet

Grounds of objection	Comments
1. Fencing alongside the existing path and smaller trees and underbrush has been ripped out around the pond. This has caused a loss of animal habitat and rendered the path unusable for smaller children when the adjacent fields are grazed.	The applicant states that the only hedges taken out were three hazel and one holly bush down the avenue, no large amount was removed. New hedge rows will be replanted. Previous fencing was removed due to its condition and will be replaced with a safer fence without barbed wire. The path will be fenced end to end. This is work that has already happened and is not a necessary result of the diversion proposal.
2. The Proposed Diversion of the footpath is not a good alternative, because the field through which it will pass is also grazed and if anything, with greater frequency than the fields by the original path and would as a consequence be unusable for smaller children.	The applicant confirmed the path will be fenced in from end to end so children, dogs and people will be safe from any grazing animals

1.11 Mr John McIntyre

Grounds of objection	Officer's comments
1. Questions the validity that this will improve security for the property and provide a path that will no longer be shared by vehicles.	The diversion will move the right of way away from proposed conversion and/or residential buildings removing some casual security threats which might arise.
2. There is no more of a security issue relating to Deep Pool Farm than there is to other properties here.	The threat to other properties is irrelevant (see point 1).
3. The reality of the diversion will increase the number of vehicles encountered by walkers using the footpath. This is because they will be diverted onto footpath 4 between B and C. Vehicles on Footpath 4 between	This seems a negligible or dubious claim. Those users will pass onto footpath 4 in any case, passing either to the north or the south, so will in any case meet a small amount of traffic on that path. The diversion runs for a

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<p>B and C will be associated with 3 existing properties.</p>	<p>shorter distance over a shared use route than the existing route.</p>
<p>4. The public notice for the proposed diversion stated that the area was being developed for new stabling. The only application I can find on the Woking Borough website regarding stable buildings (PLAN/2019/1049) has been refused. Therefore there appears no reason for the diversion.</p>	<p>It is not necessary for an application to have yet been successful for an application to be made. Presumably this is part of a process of planning ahead.</p>
<p>5. A second application (PLAN/2020/0346) for agricultural buildings is under consideration but does not mention stabling. It does state that the right of way will not be affected and the proposal will not increase traffic. There appears to be no ground to divert footpath 5 on the basis of this application.</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>6. A third application (PLAN/2020/0591) for change of use of an agricultural building to one dwelling is under consideration. This may be the real reason for the application. The documents on the website do not refer to the right of way running past the site. The owner may wish to increase the value of the property by diverting the way.</p>	<p>If this is the case it does not negate the application. There is no reason why the applicant could not have applied for reasons of security for the 'dwelling'. An examination of the published decision discusses the right of way and any mitigating measures which the development might require.</p>
<p>7. As of 30 May 2020, part of footpath 5 was obstructed by the developments taking place, including a dumper truck. On 8 July 2020 it was obstructed with both a JCB and stack of breeze blocks.</p>	<p>Temporary issues or obstructions should not be taken into account when considering whether a right of way should be diverted or not.</p>

1.12 Three other initial objections by local users were later withdrawn and so are not considered here.

1.13 An undated petition containing 58 names, addresses and accompanying signatures was received in early 2021 from the applicant. It is titled: "Walkers in support for the proposed application for relocation of footpath no. 5 plan attached". Most of these appear to be by residents local in the immediate area. These suggest a body of support for the proposed diversion therefore

supporting the applicant's argument that the application is also in the interests of the public.

- 1.14 This item seeks a decision based upon this report. This is a non-Executive Function.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The legal position to be considered is outlined in section 1.1-1.5 of this report.
- 2.2 It is deemed in this case that the proposal is in the interest of the public, removing the possible close interaction of the public (and dogs) with horses in the area of proposed stabling. It will also provide fencing in the area where grazing has occasionally taken place. These benefits are acknowledged as currently being notional in that redevelopment of the site and any problems which might arise because of it have not yet concluded.
- 2.3 It is also proposed that the right to have two stiles with field gates along the diverted section will also be replaced by two kissing gates at A and C which are in the interest of public accessibility.
- 2.4 The application is also deemed to be in the interest of the landowner, given that it removes part of its length away from the area proposed for stabling and/or residential. This may remove any potential for conflict between the public and horses and any casual criminal activity.
- 2.5 No biodiversity considerations are deemed to arise as a result of the proposal.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Make a Diversion Order and advertise it in accordance with the statutory procedures. If objections are received and maintained the Council may submit the order with the objections to the Secretary of State for determination or it may decide not to proceed any further and to rescind the Order. If no objections are received the order can be confirmed with delegated powers. This is the Officer's preferred option.
- 3.2 OR: Decide not to make the order and the definitive route for Footpath 5 will remain unchanged.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 All interested parties were consulted including user groups and local stakeholders. Both Ramblers and Open Spaces Society have no objection to this proposal. Woking Borough Council had no issue with it and Horsell Common Preservation Society had no opposition to it. This report has been viewed and approved by Surrey Legal Services.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The applicant has agreed to meet the costs of making an order, estimated normally around £2,000. If submitted to the Secretary of State for determination, the matter may be dealt with by way of written representations,

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hearing or public inquiry. If the latter was to occur then the County Council would be liable for costs in the region of £1,000, which would have to be met from the Countryside Access budget. At the current time we cannot reclaim these costs from the applicant.

6. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 6.1 It is the objective of Surrey County Council to have due regard to all public users of the highway. The proposed route removes the section of footpath 5 that runs over the accommodation road to Deep Pool Farm. The surface will remain level grass. Two stiles will be replaced by more accessible kissing gates to British Standard. A width of 3 metres is proposed enclosed by low stock fencing. The proposed route is 10 metres shorter than the definitive route. No adverse impacts are foreseen.

7. LOCALISM:

- 8.1 No Localism issues have been raised nor are deemed to apply. The Borough Council have raised no objection. There is no Parish Council. The Local Residents Association were consulted and have not objected.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	No significant implications arising from this report
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	No significant implications arising from this report

- 8.1 THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998: Under Section 6 (1) of the Human Rights Act 1998, local authorities are required to act, as far as possible, in a way that does not breach rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights. This includes the right to property, under Article 1 of the First Protocol to the Convention. In the officer's view this proposal has no human rights implications.

9. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 9.1 The Officer's recommendation is that a diversion order should be made.
- 9.2 The Local Committee (Woking) is asked to agree that:

A diversion order is made under section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert public footpath no. 5 (Woking) as shown on drawing no. 3/1/79/H68A and that if any objections are received and maintained to the Order that it is

submitted to the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs for determination.

10. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

10.1 All interested parties will be informed about the decision.

Contact Officer:

Daniel Williams, Countryside Access Officer.
Tel. 07929 849518 or 0208 541 9245

Consulted:

Advisory notices were placed on site, See section 4 for more details.

Annexes:

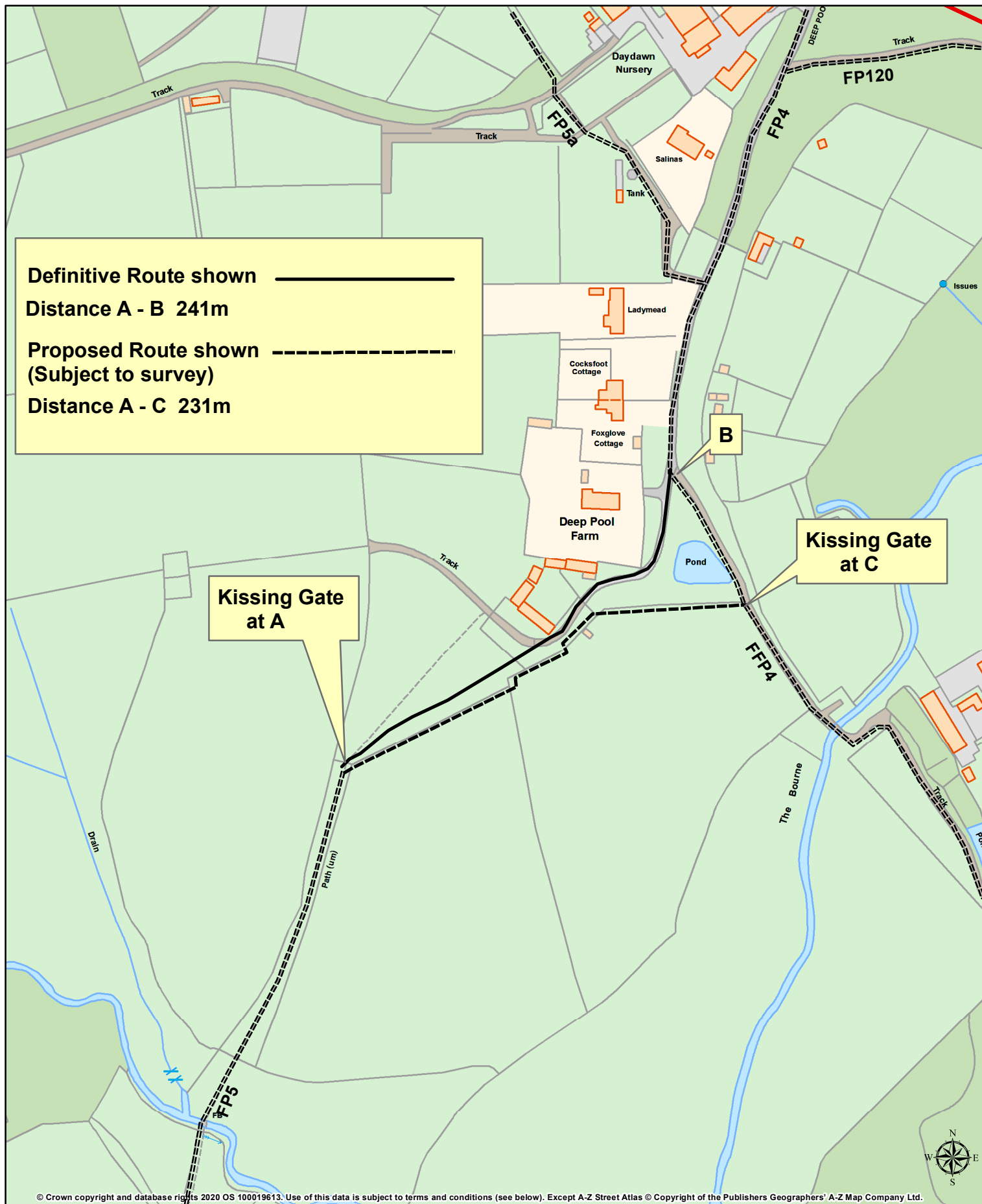
Annex A – Drawing No. 3/1/79/H68A
Annex B - Surrey County Council's Policy for Processing Public Path Orders
Annex C – Public Rights of Way Priority Statement

Sources/background papers:

Papers contained in file 3/1/79 Footpath 5 (Woking) available for inspection by contacting the Officer.

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Proposed Diversion



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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S POLICY FOR PROCESSING APPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC PATH ORDERS UNDER SECTIONS 118 AND 119 OF THE HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

1. Applications for extinguishment orders, which do not form part of a package of public path changes where the combined effect is to improve the network will only be approved in exceptional circumstances.
2. All Highways Act diversion orders will be processed according to the priority set out in the 7th edition of the Public Rights of Way Priority Statement approved by the County Council's Executive in October 2014.
3. Except in exceptional circumstances the proposed diversion will only be considered if the new route is an improvement to the existing network for the public. The needs of less able users will be taken into account: no new stiles will be agreed and gates should be easily negotiable; the surface standard, and gradients (including steps) should be no worse than on the existing route.
4. A non-returnable fee of £200, which will be deducted from the final invoice if an order is made, must accompany all applications. The final invoice will include charges for County Council staff time spent processing the order, plus the actual cost of statutory advertisements in the local newspaper. In addition applicants must sign a works agreement undertaking to carry out, at their own expense, any necessary works to bring the alternative route up to the required standard if the application is successful.
5. The applicant must undertake to keep the definitive route open until the order is confirmed, if necessary by the removal of existing obstructions.
6. Except where the change results in clearly demonstrable benefits to the public no diversion application will be accepted within 10 years of a previous diversion of a path or of a path over the same landholding, which could reasonably have been included in the previous application.

Surrey County Council: Approved October 2014

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Public Rights of Way Priority Statement

For keeping the Definitive Map and Statement under continuous review.

Prepared as a result of legislation contained in Part Three of the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981

7th Edition: October 2014

Definitive Map - Background

The National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 required every County Council in England and Wales to publish a Definitive Map and Statement showing all rights of way in their area. The presumed rights of way were surveyed and a draft Definitive Map was placed on deposit and advertised in the London Gazette and local newspapers. Members of the public and landowners could object to the inclusion or omission of a route. When these objections had been investigated a provisional map was placed on deposit and landowners could raise further objections to this. Only when all these objections had been resolved could the Definitive Map and Statement be published.

Surrey's first Definitive Map was put on deposit in 1952, a revised map was deposited in 1959 and a second revision was put on deposit in 1966. It took from 1966-1981 for all the objections to the second edition to be resolved and the new Definitive Map was published in 1982.

Definitive Map – Keeping it up to Date

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 introduced new procedures for updating the Definitive Map and Statement for public rights of way. All changes to the network are now subject to individual legal orders so that objections are resolved at this stage.

The Wildlife and Countryside Act requires the Definitive Map and Statement to be updated and thereafter to be kept under continuous review. Some changes, such as Map Modification Orders, update the map and statement at the time of the order. Other changes, such as Public Path Orders, do not and the map and statement are then updated in an annual Legal Event Order. The Definitive Map was redrawn at a scale of 1:10,000 incorporating all the legal changes to the network since 1966. A consolidated Definitive Map and modified Statement was published in March 1996, and has been updated since.

Claiming Previously Unrecorded Rights of Way

Under Section 53(5) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act any person may apply to the County Council for an order modifying the Definitive Map and Statement. These are called Map Modification Orders.

The legislation states that on receipt of an application, the authority shall start to investigate and make a decision as soon as reasonably practicable. If the authority has not determined the application within 12 months, the applicant has the right to appeal to the Secretary of State who can direct the County Council to determine the claim within a given timescale. Investigation and determination of Map Modification Orders is a time consuming process, particularly if objections are received. Orders can take over a year to complete once started. The Secretary of State will take into account the authority's Priority Statement when considering appeals. Claims can be based on user and/or historic evidence. If after investigation it is considered that the balance of probability is that a right of way exists over a route and it should be recorded in the Definitive Map and Statement or that the status of a right of way should be changed then the County Council must publish a map modification order. The order is subject to objections and if these cannot be resolved they must be submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the issue may then be determined by public inquiry.

In keeping the Definitive Map and Statement under continuous review, we will undertake work in the following order of priority, and with the following targets for completing the work:

- 1 Publication of Legal Event Orders listing all legal Orders (for e.g. Diversion Orders) and other events in order to modify the Definitive Map and Statement including the publication of updated map sheets.

We will publish these annually.

- 2 Processing of Rail Crossing Orders under s118A and 119A of the Highways Act 1980 to improve public safety.

We will start processing Orders to improve public safety as soon as an application is received.

- 3 Investigation of all claims for Map Modification Orders under Schedule 14 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

We will start processing the application within 2 years of receipt of an acceptable application and make a decision on whether to make a Map Modification Order within 3 years of receipt of an acceptable application. If directed to determine the application by the Secretary of State, we will process the application in accordance with the direction.

We will immediately acknowledge receipt, check notice has been served by the applicant and contact the landowner(s), if they are known, within 6 months of a claim being received.

Applications will be dealt with in date order of receipt. In exceptional circumstances an application may be processed out of date order. This will be decided by the Countryside Access Team Manager in consultation with the Cabinet Member where:

- Planning permission has been granted which, if fulfilled would have the effect of obstructing the alleged right of way;
- There is a safety issue, e.g. the route is an alternative to using a busy road;
- The alleged route would form part of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan improvement;
- A route anomaly would be resolved.

On receipt of an application, the route will be recorded on our on-line Register of Map Modification Orders and inspected on site.

- 4 Processing of Traffic Regulation Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 where there is a need and after considering a countywide assessment.

We will process these Orders in accordance with County policy ¹.

- 5 Processing of applications for Diversion Orders made and funded by landowners, in their interest and securing a significant public benefit in accordance with County policy ².

¹ Surrey County Council Policy on making Traffic Regulation Orders on Byways Open to All Traffic – Approved January 2009

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We will process these Orders on receipt.

- 6 Consideration of applications for Public Path Orders made under sections 118B, 118C, 119B, 119C or 119D of the Highways Act 1980.

We will process these Orders when resources are available.

- 7 Processing of Public Path Orders under sections 26, 118 and 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert, create or extinguish public paths where the County Council are promoting them in order to resolve problems or improve the rights of way network.

We will process these Orders when resources are available.

- 8 Processing of Cycle Tracks Orders under the Cycle Tracks Act 1984 where there is a need and the route is not suitable as a public bridleway.

We will process these Orders when resources are available.

Since systematic review of the Definitive Statement requires major resource expenditure it will only be updated to reflect legal events. Map Modification Orders solely to modify the description of paths in the statement will only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Where the Definitive Map & Statement can be Inspected

The Definitive Map for Surrey consists of 89 map sheets and can be inspected together with the accompanying Statement at Countryside Access, Merrow Depot, Merrow Lane, Guildford or County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames. Please phone 03456 009 009 for an appointment. Surrey County Council is a member of Travel Wise, and encourages visitors to use alternatives to the car. County Hall has secure cycle parking and is well served by public transport.

The Surrey History Centre at 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking (01483 594594) also holds a copy of the Map and Statement.

District and borough councils have copies of the Map and Statement for their area for inspection. Please telephone the appropriate authority for an appointment to view these documents. Parish and town councils also have copies of the Map and Statement for their areas and, where practicable, should make these available.

Surrey's rights of way network can be seen on our [website](#). Please follow the link to the interactive map. Please note the information shown does not constitute a legal record and for legal reasons such as buying property the paper copy should always be inspected.

Copyright legislation prevents photocopying complete map sheets. However the Ordnance Survey licence allows an A4 extract from the map to be provided. A charge will be made to cover costs.



WOKING JOINT COMMITTEE

DATE: 23 JUNE 2021

LEAD OFFICER: NIKKIE THORNTON-BRYAR, PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OFFICER (SCC)

SUBJECT: APPOINTMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEE TASK GROUPS

AREA: WOKING

SUMMARY OF ISSUE:

The Joint Committee is asked to agree establishment, terms of reference and membership of its Task Groups.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Woking Joint Committee is asked to agree:

- (i) The terms of reference for the following (as set out in Annex 1):
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Task Group
 - b. Community Safety Task Group
 - c. Parking Task Group
 - d. Infrastructure Working Group

- (ii) The County Councillor and Borough Councillor appointments to the following:
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough)
 - b. Community Safety Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough)
 - c. Parking Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough plus Chairman and Vice Chairman)
 - d. Infrastructure Working Group (1 County, 1 Borough)

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Task Groups will enable the Joint Committee to carry out its functions in an efficient and expedient manner.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 The Joint Committee is asked to consider the Task Groups which should be established to support its work during the year.
- 1.2 For 2021/22 the Joint Committee is being asked to agree the terms of reference of Task Groups considering Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing, Parking, and Infrastructure, all of which will be advisory groups with the decision making remaining with the Joint Committee. The terms of reference for the recommended task groups are set out in Annex 1.

2. ANALYSIS:

- 2.1 The Joint Committee is asked to agree the terms of reference as set out in Annex 1 and the County Councillors and Borough Councillors to be appointed to the task groups.

3. OPTIONS:

- 3.1 The Committee can confirm the task groups (and corresponding terms of reference) set out within the report and annex 1, consider new sub committees or task groups, or not have any sub committees or task groups. If an additional sub committee or task group is established, provisional terms of reference should be agreed.
- 3.2 Non-committee members may be appointed to any of the task groups by agreement by the Chairman of the Joint Committee and Chairman of the particular task group.

4. CONSULTATIONS:

- 4.1 The task groups have been requested to help manage the workload of the Committee.
- 4.2 Relevant offices from Surrey County Council, Woking Borough Council and partner agencies have been consulted.

5. FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations. Work to support the recommendations will be undertaken within current resources.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT:

- 6.1 There are no significant risk management implications arising from this report.
- 6.2 The Task Groups are advisory groups, and therefore make recommendations to the Joint Committee where decisions are taken in accordance with the agreed standing orders.

7. LOCALISM:

- 7.1 The establishment of task groups enables officers to draw upon the local knowledge of County and Borough Councillors and partners, ensuring that specific local needs and priorities are considered.

8. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 There are no specific equalities and diversity implications arising from the recommendations.

9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Area assessed:	Direct Implications:
Crime and Disorder	Set out below.
Sustainability (including Climate Change and Carbon Emissions)	No significant implications arising from this report
Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children	No significant implications arising from this report
Safeguarding responsibilities for vulnerable children and adults	No significant implications arising from this report
Public Health	Set out below.
Human Resource/Training and Development	No significant implications arising from this report

9.1 Crime and Disorder implications

The role of the Community Safety Task Group is to advise the joint committee in relation to community safety issues across the borough. As such it will promote crime prevention to maintain the low levels of crime and disorder, and promote reassurance - to involve the public and work with all communities to reduce the fear of crime and provide people with a sense of safety and reassurance.

9.2 Public Health implications

The Health and Wellbeing Task Group will advise the joint committee in relation to health and wellbeing issues across the borough.

10. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 10.1 The Committee is asked to agree the terms of reference and membership of the task/working groups to enable the Joint Committee to carry out its functions in an efficient and expedient manner.

- 10.2 Working Joint Committee is asked to agree:

- i) The terms of reference for the following (as set out in Annex 1):
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Task Group
 - b. Community Safety Task Group
 - c. Parking Task Group

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- d. Infrastructure Working Group
- ii) The County Councillor and Borough Councillor appointments to the following:
 - a. Health and Wellbeing Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough)
 - b. Community Safety Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough)
 - c. Parking Task Group (up to 2 County and 2 Borough plus Chairman and Vice Chairman)
 - d. Infrastructure Working Group (1 County, 1 Borough)

11. WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

- 11.1 Meetings of the task groups will be scheduled. The Task Groups will meet in private, and Members will be advised of the dates in due course.
- 11.2 Terms of reference and appointments will remain as agreed until the first meeting of the Joint Committee in the new municipal year, when the Joint Committee will next be asked to review the terms of reference and membership.

Contact Officer:

Consulted:

Joint Committee members, relevant officers in Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council, Woking Neighbourhood Inspector, NW Surrey CCG.

Annexes:

Annex 1 – Terms of Reference of:

- Health and Wellbeing Task Group
- Community Safety Task Group
- Parking Task Group
- Infrastructure Working Group

Sources/background papers:

Woking Joint Committee Health and Wellbeing Task Group Terms of Reference (Updated Sept 2019)

The Health and Wellbeing Task Group is a Task Group of the Woking Joint Committee. The Terms of Reference and membership of the task group are agreed by Woking Joint Committee at the start of the municipal year. The Health and Wellbeing Task Group now incorporates the function of the Early Help Advisory Board.

Role:

The Health and Wellbeing task Group will assist and advise the Joint Committee in relation to improving the health and wellbeing of all our residents across the Borough.

Functions:

1. To develop, implement, monitor and review a local plan for improving health and wellbeing outcomes in Woking which is consistent with the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy, whilst retaining a local (place) context.
2. The Task Group shall ensure robust communication with key stakeholder organisations, to ensure that the implementation of the plan is working in integration with community partners and the wider Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care System.
3. To provide updates and make recommendations to the Woking Joint Committee and via them to the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board.
4. To identify areas of health and wellbeing need, using population level data to provide a targeted approach to services.
5. To reduce the health and wellbeing inequalities between different areas and populations within our borough.
6. To ensure that the Early Help Offer is integrated within the health and well-being plan, with links to the Family Centres, Family Support Programme, Youth Offer and the Family Information Service.
7. To support the streamlining of provision of services with our partner organisations, e.g. health, social care, mental health, faith and voluntary sectors.
8. Promote the reduction and elimination of barriers to care and support.
9. Identify areas of funding to support the implementation of the local plan.
10. Promote self- help and independence of residents.
11. Ensure that the Marmott principles of 'Health in All Policies' is incorporated so that the Wider Determinants of Health are considered within the relevant committees in the Council, and considered as good practice and business as usual.

Membership:

The task Group will comprise the following representation:

- Up to 4 councillors (up to 2 from SCC and 2 from WBC)

Previous Joint Committee Membership (appointed Nov 2020)

Cllr Deborah Hughes – to be replaced by Cllr Ellen Nicholson

Cllr Melanie Whitehand - NO LONGER ON JC

Cllr Liz Bowes

Cllr Saj Hussein

- North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group (NWS CCG)
- Mental Health Services, Surrey and Borders Partnership (SaBP)
- NWS Integrated Care Partnership (NWS ICP)
- Family Centre lead
- Education representative
- Domestic Abuse representative
- WBC officer support;
 1. Family Services
 2. Health and Wellbeing

Other representation may be invited to attend the Task Group on an ad hoc basis at the discretion of the Chairman.

Chairman:

The Chairman of the Task Group for each Municipal Year will be elected by the Councillors appointed to the Task Group at its first meeting of the new Municipal Year.

Operations of the Task Group:

- The Task Group shall exist to advise the Woking Joint Committee. It has no formal decision making powers. The Task Group will:
 - ✓ Meet in private, unless otherwise agreed.
 - ✓ Develop a work programme that links directly to the implementation of the local plan.
 - ✓ Receive verbal/ brief written updates as appropriate.
 - ✓ Record actions and maintain an action log.
 - ✓ Report back to the Joint Committee
- Officers supporting the Task Group will consult the Group prior to the submission of any officer report to the Joint Committee.
- The Task Group will meet 6 times per year. The meetings will be held during the normal working day in respect to the non Council representatives.
- The Task Group will ensure that they are aware of the work of the other Task Groups to provide appropriate links and manage overlap/ gaps.

Responsibilities of Attendees:

- Ensure papers are read in advance of the meetings.
- Ensure that any actions they are responsible for are completed and fed back to the Group.
- Ensure that the work of the Group is fed back to their own organisations and promote integration and understanding of services across the system
- If unable to attend a meeting, to send a deputy, or at least a report of any actions from the last meeting that they own.

Community Safety Task Group Terms of Reference

The Community Safety Task Group is a Task Group of Woking Joint Committee. The Terms of Reference and membership of the task group are agreed by Woking Joint Committee at the first meeting of each new municipal year.

Role:

The Community Safety Task Group will assist and advise the joint committee in relation to community safety issues across the borough.

Functions:

1. To assess local community safety issues, prepare an outcome focused community safety partnership plan setting out the priorities and planned responses to address these issues, and recommend this plan for approval to Woking Joint Committee
2. To monitor actions taken to implement the Community Safety Partnership Plan via a quarterly report and provide updates, as appropriate, to Woking Joint Committee
3. To act as an advisory body for community safety issues on behalf of the Woking Joint Committee
4. To monitor spend against the delegated community safety funding
5. To provide, as appropriate, updates to the countywide Community Safety Board, and consider recommendations arising from it.

Membership:

The Task Group will comprise the following representation:

- Up to four councillors (up to two from the County Council and two from the Borough Council)
- Surrey Police
- Surrey and Sussex Probation
- NW Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Surrey Fire and Rescue Borough Commander
- Woking Borough Council Community Safety Officer
- Surrey County Council Community Safety Team
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (adhoc)

PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP (appointed Nov 2020)

Community Safety Task Group

- i) Cllr Deborah Hughes
- ii) Cllr Simon Ashall
- iii) Mr Saj Hussain
- iv) Cllr Graham Chrystie – NO LONGER ON JC

Chairman:

The Chairman of the Task Group will be nominated by the members of the Task Group.

Operation:

- The Task Group shall exist to advise the Joint Committee. It has no formal decision making powers. The Task Group will:
 - Unless otherwise agreed meet in private
 - Develop a work programme and receive verbal/brief written updates as appropriate
 - Record actions
 - Report back to the Joint Committee.
- Officers supporting the Task Group will consult the Group and will give due consideration to the group's reasoning and recommendations prior to the officer writing their report to the joint committee. Draft reports will be considered by the Community Safety Task Group in advance of them going to the Joint Committee, where available.
- The Task Group can, should it so wish, respond to an officer report and submit its own report to the joint committee.
- The Task Group will meet up to 3 times a year and meetings will be held during the day.
- The Task Group will remain aware of the work streams of the other Task Groups to ensure appropriate linkages and manage overlap.

Responsibilities of Attendees:

- Ensure all papers are read in advance.
- Provide a consistent representative from each organisation.

Woking Joint Committee Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group Terms of Reference – 2020/21

The Community Infrastructure Levy Task Group is a Task Group of Woking Joint Committee. The Terms of Reference and membership of the task group are agreed by Woking Joint Committee at the first meeting of each new municipal year.

Role:

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Task Group will assist and advise the Joint Committee in relation to CIL Community Funding Bids across the borough and to agree the funding of small applications.

Functions:

To determine applications submitted by Ward Councillors to use CIL money to deliver community infrastructure projects. The Sub-Group should be able to determine applications outside Joint Committee meetings and approve applications up to the value of £10,000.

6. To monitor spend against the community infrastructure levy funds available in each area

Membership:

The Task Group will comprise the following representation:

- A minimum of three and a maximum of six councillors (with representation from the County Council and the Borough Council)
- Task Group will be served by Woking Borough Council Planning Policy Manager and Partnership and Committee Officer (Surrey Heath and Woking)

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP (volunteered Nov 2020)

Community Infrastructure Levy Task Group

i) Cllr Amanda Boote - SCC

ii) Cllr Liz Bowes - SCC

iii) Cllr Melanie Whitehand – WBC – **CHAIR (Dec 2020) – NOT ON JC**

iv) Cllr Graham Chrystie – WBC – NOT ON JC

v) Cllr Gary Elson – WBC – NOT ON JC

vi) Cllr Ann-Marie Barker - WBC

Chairman:

The Chairman of the Task Group will be nominated and agreed by the members of the Task Group to serve for a period of one year from June to May. A chair can be re-elected as many times as Members of the Task Group wish to do so.

Operation:

The Task Group shall exist to agree small funding bids and advise the Joint Committee of the expenditure. The Task Group will:

- Unless otherwise agreed meet in private
- Record actions and clear reasons for acceptance or rejection of bids
- Report back to the Joint Committee.

The Task Group will meet up to 10 times a year and meetings will be held during the day. Meetings are currently set for the first Monday of each month (except Jan and Aug).

The Task Group will remain aware of the work streams of the other Task Groups to ensure appropriate linkages and manage overlap.

Responsibilities of Attendees:

- Ensure all papers are read in advance.
- Provide clear reasons for any objections.
- Consider all the details before them before agreeing bids.
- Ask for further information or for clarity on any bid if required.

Parking Task Group Terms of Reference

The Parking Task Group is a Task Group of Woking Joint Committee. The Terms of Reference and membership of the Task Group, which exists to advise Woking Joint Committee, are agreed by Woking Joint Committee at the first meeting of each new municipal year.

Role:

The Task Group will work with officers to advise Woking Joint Committee on any issues with regard to parking controls and civil parking enforcement, and discuss any proposals that require a decision through the Joint Committee.

Functions:

To consider:

- The operation of on and off street parking controls and all aspects of Civil Parking Enforcement across the Borough
- The effectiveness of any new restrictions introduced
- Requests for additional or amended parking restrictions.
- Use of any surplus income for decision at the Joint Committee.
- To review the effectiveness of the discounted residents season ticket initiative as appropriate.
- Consideration of parking capacity on and off street within the borough.
- To consider the parking impacts of the school expansion programme in Woking.

Membership:

The Task Group may include up to two county councillors and two borough councillors. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Woking Joint Committee may also attend.

PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP - (appointed Nov 2020)

Parking Task Group

i) Chair

ii) Vice Chair

iii) Cllr Will Forster

iv) Cllr Tahir Aziz

v) Cllr Colin Kemp

vi) Cllr Liam Lyons – NOT A JC MEMBER BUT WAS INVITED ONTO GROUP

Operation of the Task Group:

- The Task Group will advise and make recommendations as appropriate to the Woking Joint Committee and borough council - it has no formal decision-making powers.
- The Task Group will meet in private and keep a record of its actions.
- Officers supporting the Task Group will give due consideration to the Task Group's reasoning and recommendations prior to the officer writing their report to the Joint Committee.
- The Task Group can, should they so wish, respond to an officer report and submit their own report to the Joint Committee.
- The Task Group will remain aware of the work streams of the other Task Groups to ensure appropriate linkages and manage overlap.

www.woking.gov.uk
www.surreycc.gov.uk/woking

Infrastructure Working Group Terms of Reference

1) Remit	The infrastructure working group is a joint Member and Officer consultative and working group set up to work jointly and collaboratively on infrastructure capacity, infrastructure requirements, infrastructure related to development and infrastructure delivery across the Borough, using CIL or other funding streams.
2) Membership of Group	<p>Portfolio Holder for Planning, WBC WBC Member representative SCC Member representative (the above to include representation from the two main political parties also)</p> <p>PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP (appointed Nov 2020) Infrastructure Working Group i) Cllr Ayesha Azad ii) Cllr Simon Ashall</p> <p style="color: red;">BOTH STILL ON JC - BUT MIGHT WANT CHAIR OF JC ON THIS?</p> <p>Development Manager, Woking BC Planning Policy Manager, Woking BC Deputy Chief Executive, Woking BC</p> <p>For Surrey CC the following areas would be represented as required: Spatial Planning Transport Policy Infrastructure Agreements School Commissioning Economic Development Property Services</p> <p>The group will reserve the right to seek representation from other borough and county service areas as required.</p>
3) Meetings	Bi -monthly and more frequently as and when required.
4) Aim of the group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To meet the challenge of aligning infrastructure delivery to development coming forward on the back of the Core Strategy, • To deliver the infrastructure requirements of the Core Strategy as amplified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. • To facilitate delivery of the schemes identified in the CIL Regulation 123 list.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To coordinate with other infrastructure providers including utility companies. <p><u>Objectives</u></p> <p>The working group objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide a co-ordinated and consistent response to delivery of the infrastructure set out in policies of the Core Strategy; • to ensure that overarching infrastructure delivery mechanisms are secured; • to advise the Joint Committee on the Reg 123 List schemes and their priority, in delivery terms, to ensure maximum benefit to the community <p>To achieve the team will responsible for;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme management • Coordination of projects Monitoring and delivery of project priorities and targets • Performance chasing • Regular upward reporting to the Joint Committee both during and after delivery of each project • Working up of implementation plans • Identification of opportunities for using current and future council assets, co-location of services / facilities and influencing investment decisions to ensure high standard of infrastructure provision for all communities including those areas of major new development. • Identification of current and future infrastructure expenditure and funding streams. • Project timescale monitoring <p>To achieve this the group will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive and review regular project progress reports from Project Managers and Project Delivery Leaders internally and externally to the Council(s) • Report project progress updates to the Joint Committee • Feedback updates, changes and amendments to project plans from the Joint Committee to the Project Managers • Consult with relevant community and other groups
<p>5) Output</p>	<p>Bi Monthly project progress updates to Woking's Corporate Management Group Reports to Joint Committee on CIL priorities</p>

Living Well in Woking – a Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2031

ITEM 11

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Foreword

I am delighted to introduce Woking Borough Council's inaugural Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This document describes our ambition to improve the health and wellbeing of Woking residents over the next ten years and sets out the key priorities we have identified.

Although the council does not directly provide healthcare services, there are many other factors that influence people's health and wellbeing. These include how active people are, their employment status, the social support they can access and the quality of their housing. The council has a role to play in improving these wider determinants and narrowing the gap between those with the best and worst wellbeing in the borough.

The population of Woking is generally healthy, but we know that outcomes are not universally as good as they could be. In the most deprived areas of Woking, life expectancy is almost six years lower for men and over four years lower for women compared to those in the least deprived areas. We have seen the pandemic and lockdowns have a significant impact on health and we have heard from our residents that many are concerned about their mental health and wellbeing.

The pandemic has also changed the way we deliver services and I am proud of the way teams across the Council have responded flexibly to support residents during this time. Through delivery of this strategy we will build on this work with our local communities.

We cannot realise this aim alone, so it is vital that we work with a wide range of partners to deliver this strategy. These include North West Surrey Integrated Care Partnership and the numerous voluntary, community and faith organisations in Woking. We are committed to working innovatively to deliver sustainable improvements in health and wellbeing and ultimately realise our vision of everyone in Woking living a healthy and independent life.

Councillor Deborah Harlow

Setting the scene

The wider determinants of health

Health is impacted by a wide range of factors - the circumstances in which people are born, grow, live, work and age, as well as their access to and quality of the health and social care system. These wider determinants can have a positive or negative impact on health.



This influence of wider determinants has been recognised in a number of national reports. The Marmot Review¹ into health inequalities in England, published in February 2010, found that people living in the poorest neighbourhoods in England will on average die seven years earlier and spend more of their lives with disability. The Review found that health inequalities are largely preventable and action is required across all the social determinants of health to create the necessary conditions for people to take control of their own lives. Central to the Review is the recognition that disadvantage starts before birth and accumulates throughout life.

Unfortunately, since then the situation has become worse. Health Equity in England,² a follow up report published in 2020, found that since 2010 life expectancy in England has stalled and differences in years in ill health and life expectancy both within and between regions have tended to increase.

The NHS Long Term Plan³ (LTP), published in January 2019, set out an ambitious plan to make improvements for patients over the next ten years. The LTP responded to the Marmot Review, setting out actions the NHS will take to strengthen its contribution to prevention and tackling health inequalities. The LTP committed to funding prevention programmes to cut smoking, reduce obesity, limit alcohol-related A&E admissions and lower air pollution with a particular focus on areas with health inequalities and unmet need.

The LTP priorities also included new service models, improvements in care quality and outcomes, tackling workforce pressures, and upgrading technology and digitally enabled care with a five-year funding settlement.

¹ <https://www.parliament.uk/globalassets/documents/fair-society-healthy-lives-full-report.pdf>

² https://www.health.org.uk/sites/default/files/upload/publications/2020/Health%20Equity%20in%20England_The%20Marmot%20Review%2010%20Years%20On_full%20report.pdf

³ <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/nhs-long-term-plan-version-1.2.pdf>

The LTP recognised the role that local authorities, the voluntary and community sector, and other partners working alongside NHS organisations play in improving the health of the local population. The LTP stated that Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), including representation from all these partners, will be created everywhere by April 2021 to plan and deliver services which meet the needs of local communities. The council is a key partner in the Surrey Heartlands ICS.

The LTP also emphasised the need to work alongside patients and individuals to engage them in decisions about their health and wellbeing and to deliver more person-centred care, integrating services around the individual.

The wider determinants of health have also influenced county-wide strategic approaches. In 2019, the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board published a ten-year **Health and Wellbeing Strategy**⁴. Based on evidence from the Surrey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the views of Surrey residents, the strategy set out how different partners across Surrey can work with local communities to tackle the wider determinants of health and improve wellbeing together.

The strategy was focused around three key priorities: helping people in Surrey to lead a healthy life; supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of people in Surrey; and supporting people to fulfil their potential. The strategy emphasised the importance of working together within local communities to transform services across Surrey to achieve these aims. Rather than focusing on just the symptoms of ill health, it adopted a preventative approach to addressing root causes of poor health and wellbeing. These include factors such as poor housing and the environment.

A partnership approach is also evident in **Time for Kids**, a new approach and perspective to guide agencies working with children, young people and their families in Surrey. This work was initiated in 2019 by the voluntary sector in Surrey, via Surrey Youth Focus and has involved a ‘think tank’ approach including the police, NHS, local authorities, schools and children and young people. Time for Kids has five core principles:

- Focus on human connection with a child, with patience and passion, to achieve the very best for all children and young people;
- Enable professionals and volunteers working with children and young people to have the time and resources to provide stability and earn the child/young person’s trust;
- Encourage young people to tell their story, to listen, believe and help the young person to make the changes they need to develop hope for their future;
- Find ways to build on the individual strengths of each child whatever they might be and help them to shine; and
- Believe in the child or young person and what they can achieve.

Partnership working is also at the heart of the **North West Surrey Integrated Care Partnership** (NWS ICP). ICPs have formed across Surrey Heartlands, bringing together health, local government and wider partners to utilise their collective resources and expertise for the ultimate benefit of local people.

Figure 1: Map showing Integrated Care Partnerships in Surrey

⁴ https://www.healthysurrey.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/197530/Surrey-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy-FINAL-19.11.20.pdf



In December 2020 the NWS ICP partners, including the council, adopted an Alliance Agreement setting out a shared vision, value set and objectives, as well as a framework for the collective oversight of resources and decision making. The objectives of the Alliance are:

- To help people to prevent ill health and manage their own care;
- To reduce health inequalities, using our collective resources to support those with the highest need and deliver excellent outcomes for all North West Surrey residents;
- To deliver planned, responsive, joined up health and care services;
- To create a culture of excellence and a supportive environment for our staff;
- To deliver innovative solutions supported by technological and digital infrastructure;
- To provide services as close to people’s homes as possible;
- To create One Team to facilitate the best holistic care and to attract and retain the best talent;
- To reduce duplication and waste;
- To reconsider the way we invest our resources, focusing on prevention and the wider determinants of health outcomes;
- To work with local communities to build new forms of partnership between the public sector, local citizens, community groups, the voluntary sector and local business; and
- To develop a vibrant, sustainable Alliance between partner organisations.

The NWS Health and Care Alliance Board oversees delivery of the Alliance agenda and objectives. The council’s Chief Executive is a member of the Alliance Board. NWS ICP has agreed three key priorities as part of their response to the pandemic:

- Looking after our people through effective decompression and effective long-term support – sustained wellbeing support approach and strategy for our people;
- Restoring critical services – getting ahead on key pressure points e.g. diagnostics, system approach to sharing capacity and tackling key challenges including mental health, children and widening inequalities; and
- Embedding innovation – sustained structure for vaccination, embedding digital models and embracing the health and public sector role in socio-economic development.

Delivery of these recover priorities will support the longer-term priorities agreed in January 2021 by the Alliance Board:

- Place Based Teams around Primary Care Networks⁵;
- Frailty, local hubs and community response;
- Integrated discharge; and
- Service configuration and borough developments.

On an even more local level, the Woking **Redeeming Our Communities** conversation⁶, commissioned by Trinity Methodist Church as part of its Foundry Project, held a well-attended engagement event in March 2020 and identified the following as the top three community issues: provision of activities for youth, isolation/loneliness, and mental health.

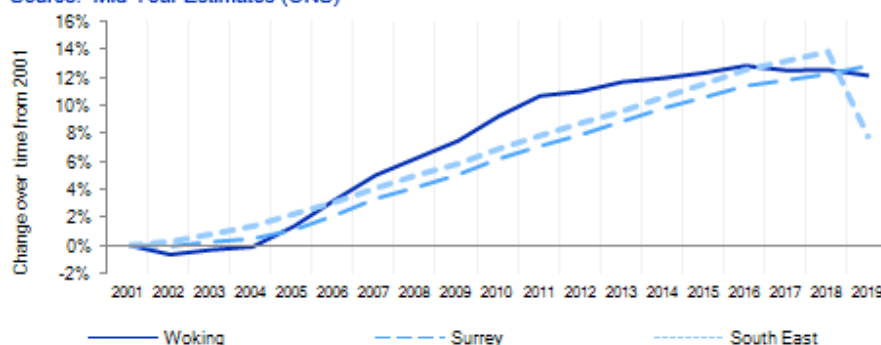
The importance of the wider determinants and their impact on the health of local communities is increasingly recognised beyond the health and care sector by national and regional bodies. For example, **Creating Healthier Built Environments**, Surrey County Council's Guidance for Health and Local Planning published in January 2020, was specifically developed to support and enable health and planning colleagues to share planning policy that addresses public health issues and embed health and wellbeing into planning policies and decisions.

The guidance focuses on two elements of planning and health. One is the creation of healthy environments that support and encourage healthy lifestyles and consider the wider determinants of health. The other is identifying and securing appropriate local health infrastructure to support the health and care system.

A picture of Woking now

Woking is one of 11 districts and boroughs in the county of Surrey⁷. It has a population of 100,793 across ten wards, which has plateaued in recent years following an above average increase from 2006 – 2015. Of the total population, 50.0% are male and 50.0% are female.

Figure: % change in total population from 2001-2019
Source: Mid-Year Estimates (ONS)



Woking has a slightly younger population profile than both England and the South East region. Of the Woking population, 21.6% are aged 0 to 15 (South East: 19.2%, England: 19.2%), 61.1% are aged 16 to 64 (South East: 61.3%, England 62.4%) and 17.3% are aged 65 and over (South East: 19.5%, England: 18.4%).

⁵ Primary Care Networks bring general practices together to work at scale (covering populations of approximately 30,000-50,000 patients), focusing on service delivery.

⁶ <https://roc.uk.com/woking/>

⁷ Throughout this document 'Woking' is used to refer to the borough of Woking (as opposed to the town of Woking).

However, in common with the rest of the country, Woking has an ageing population and the over 65 population is expected to increase by 3,900, more than 20%, in the next ten years.

Woking is the most ethnically diverse borough in Surrey, with a large Pakistani community (5.7% - the highest proportion in Surrey). In 2011, 83.6% of Woking's population identified themselves as white, 11.6% as Asian or Asian British, 1.4% as black or black British, 2.4% as mixed and 1.1% as other ethnic group.

Woking has the biggest Syrian Refugee Resettlement programme in the South East region. 50 Syrian families have been resettled in Woking over the last five years through the Home Office Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme. The council provides housing and intensive support for resettlement including health needs, benefits, employment, language training and social integration.

In March 2021 it was announced that Woking was top of the UK Vitality Index 2021⁸ which assesses locations outside London to identify the best places to live, work and do business, in addition to those with the highest growth potential. The index incorporates a range of indicators including economy, business, health outcomes and the environment. Woking has also scored highly in other rankings, earning a spot among the happiest places in the UK, according to the Office for National Statistics, while the most recent Halifax Quality of Life Survey named Woking among the 20 best places to live in Britain.

The health of Woking

The health of people in Woking is generally better than the English average. The life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the average for England – in Woking, life expectancy at birth for males is 82.7 years (compared to 80.8 for the South East region and 79.8 for England) and for females is 84.9 years (compared to 84.3 for the South East region and 83.4 for England).

However, there are health inequalities – differences between the health status of different groups of people – in Woking. In the most deprived areas of Woking, life expectancy is 5.7 years lower for men and 4.6 years lower for women than in the least deprived areas. This is, however, less pronounced than in the South East region generally (7.9 and 6.0 years respectively) and England as a whole (9.5 and 7.5 years respectively).

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought health inequalities into sharp focus. A Public Health England report⁹ published in June 2020 found that the impact of Covid-19 has replicated existing health inequalities, and in some cases has increased them. Nationally, the mortality rates from Covid-19 in the most deprived areas were more than double those in the least deprived areas for both males and females. This is greater than the inequality seen in mortality rates in previous years.

Woking performs well for most other measures of physical health - the infant mortality rate of 3.7 is in line with the South East region (3.7) and lower than England (3.9) and the under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases (46.8) is better than the averages for the South East region (57.1) and England (70.4), as is the under 75 mortality rate from cancer (110.6 in Woking compared to 121.6 in South East region and 129.2 in England). As the chart below

⁸ <https://www.lsh.co.uk/explore/research-and-views/research/2021/feb/vitality-index-2021>

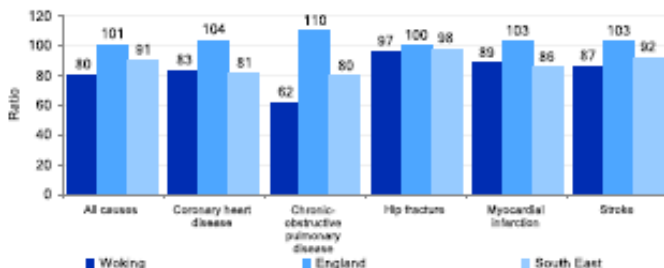
⁹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/908434/Disparities_in_the_risk_and_outcomes_of_COVID_August_2020_update.pdf

shows, Woking had a lower emergency admission rate to hospital than other areas in England and the South East from 2013 – 2018.

Figure: Emergency hospital admissions: Standardised ratio (select causes)

Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, Information Centre for Health and Social Care, Office for National Statistics (2013/14 – 2017/18)

If an area is above 100, there is a higher proportion of admissions than had been expected. If it is below 100, there is a lower proportion of admissions than expected.



However, the estimated prevalence of diabetes in Woking is 5.7%, higher than the Surrey average of 5.4% and broadly in line with the national average of 6.8%. As highlighted in the Government’s White Paper **Working Together To Improve Health and Social Care For All** published in February 2021, diabetes is on the rise. The rate of diabetes in England is expected to increase by more than 15% by 2030.

There are over 14 million disabled people in the UK. Into this group fall 19% of working age adults, 44% of pensioners and 8% of children. Woking is the district/borough in Surrey with the highest percentage of adults claiming Disability Living Allowance (1.7% compared to 1.5% Surrey average). The top three wards for disability benefit claims are Hoe Valley, Goldsworth Park and Knaphill. The council’s Homelink service has seen an increase in the number of clients with mobility issues as a result of the pandemic.

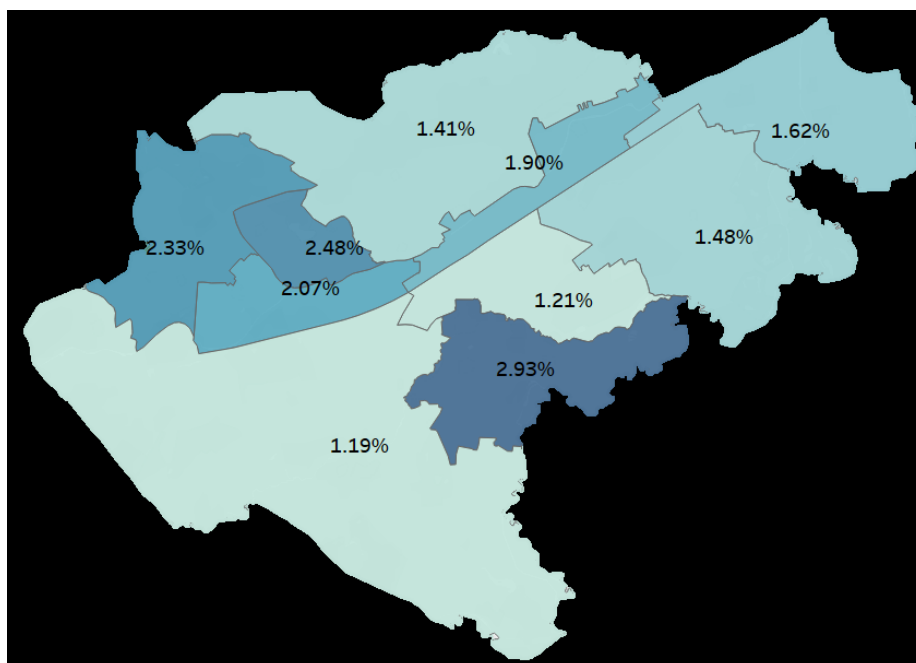


Figure 2: Shows proportion of people who are disabled and receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) Source: Department for Work and Pensions – February 2021

Woking has the second highest rate in Surrey for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in Year R (aged 4-5 years) at 79.1 per 1,000 compared to the Surrey average of 55.3. At Year 6 (aged 10-11 years) the rate in Woking of 108.1 is slightly below the Surrey average of 109.6.

Surrey County Council's Graduated Response¹⁰, also known as 'SEND Support', provides an approach for early identification and intervention to support children who experience barriers in making progress. This 'staged' approach follows a four-part cycle - assess, plan, do and review – and sets out how services in Surrey work together with parents/carers, schools and settings to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

In terms of mental health, the rate for self-harm related hospital admissions in Woking is 106.4 (representing 100 admissions per year), lower than the average for both the South East region (199.7) and England (193.4). Similarly, Woking's suicide rate of 8.0 per 100,000 people is lower than that of the South East region (9.6) and England (10.1). Males account for around 75% of suicide deaths, with 45-60 being the highest risk age group. The Surrey Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-22 aims to reduce levels of suicide by 10% by 2021.

Mental health problems are distributed according to a gradient of economic disadvantage i.e. the poorer and more disadvantaged are more likely to be affected by a mental illness.

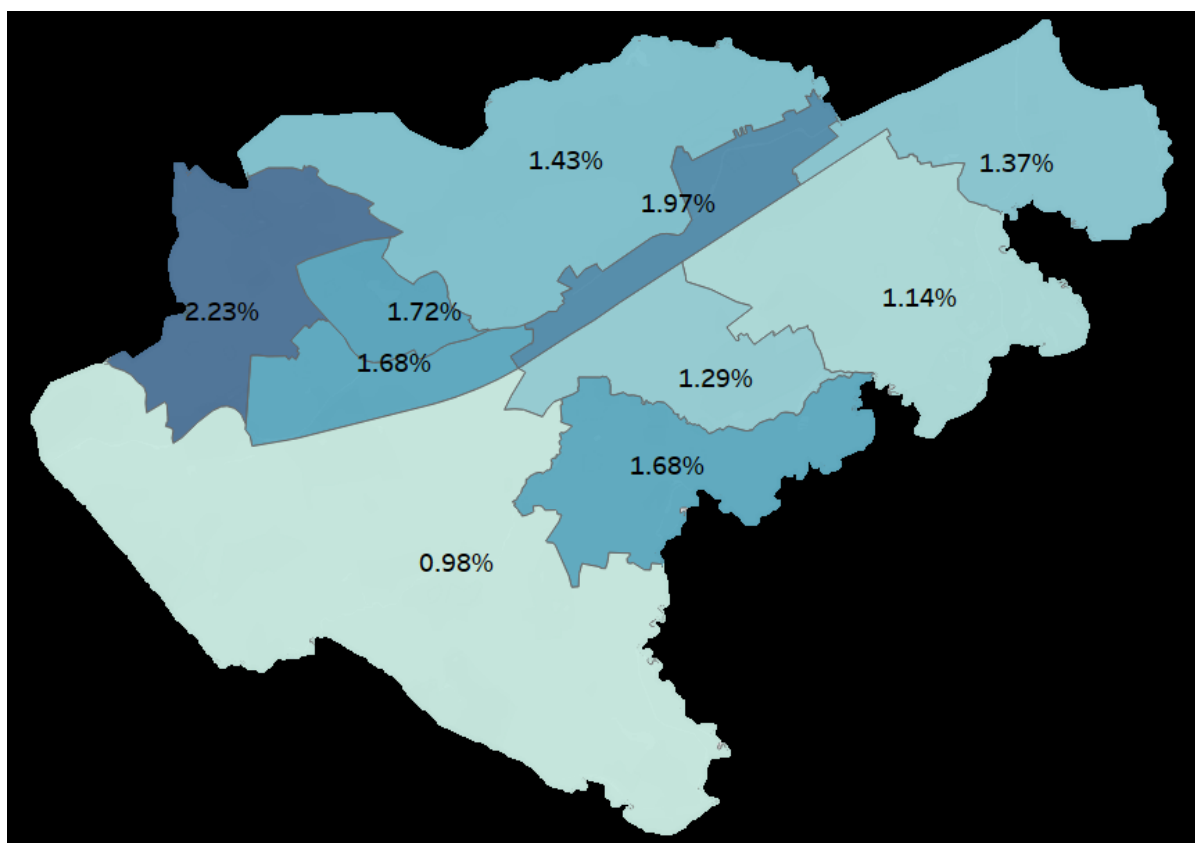
Nationally, one in six adults experiences a common mental health problem such as anxiety or depression. The estimated prevalence of common mental disorders in Woking is lower compared to the South East region and England for both the population aged 16 and over (England: 16.9%, South East region: 14.8%, Woking: 13.1%) and the population aged 65 and over (England: 10.2%, South East region: 9.2%, Woking: 7.9%).

However, Woking has a slightly higher percentage of adults claiming incapacity benefit for mental health issues (1.6% of all incapacity benefit claimants) compared to the rest of Surrey (1.5%), ranking joint second out of the 11 borough and districts in Surrey. It should be noted that this is lower than the England average of 2.3% and no Woking wards fall above this national average. The top three wards for mental health incapacity benefit are Knaphill¹¹ (2.2%), Canalside (2.0%) and Goldsworth Park (1.7%), as show in the map below.

Figure 3: Claimants of Incapacity Benefit who are claiming due to mental health related conditions Source: Department for Work and Pensions – May 2020

¹⁰ <https://www.surreylocaloffer.org.uk/kb5/surrey/localoffer/site.page?id=6soPrqlr3vA>

¹¹ Brookwood Asylum in Knaphill was the leading mental hospital in West Surrey until its closure in 1994. Many former residents chose to stay in the area.



The trend for those claiming Incapacity Benefit due to mental health has remained largely flat across the last 10 years.

Mental health has been identified as a particular issue in young people. In 2020, Redeeming Our Communities undertook a survey of more than 150 young people in Woking. When asked what the biggest issue was in Woking, the main response was mental health, followed by a lack of things to do / being bored and bullying in school, online and through phone and text messages. During the past year, 73% of young people surveyed had experienced anxiety, 40% had felt isolation, 37% had periods of sustained mental health illness and depression, 24% had suffered from self-harm, and 8% said their long-term mental health had been affected by a disability.

The lockdowns as a result of the pandemic have had a significant impact on mental health and social isolation. The UCL COVID-19 Social Study published in February 2021 found that anxiety and depression levels are consistently higher than pre-pandemic averages. The ONS report **Coronavirus and the Social Impacts on Great Britain**, published in November 2020, found that restrictions on socialising have had an impact on people's wellbeing and mental health with nearly half of adults (49%) reporting boredom, loneliness, anxiety or stress arising due to the pandemic. In November 2020 Surrey County Council published a Covid-19 Community Impact Assessment¹² which found that 58% of Woking residents were concerned about their mental health and wellbeing for the following six months. This figure is 11% higher than the Surrey average and the highest of the districts and boroughs in Surrey.

A social prescribing survey of 29 link workers and wellbeing advisers across Surrey in January 2021 found that the most common issues being experienced by clients were mental

¹² <https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/covid-impacts/>

health and emotional support, and social interaction or loneliness. An ONS survey¹³ between October 2020 and February 2021 found that 6.58% of people in Woking often or always felt lonely, compared to 6.17% in Surrey and 7.26% in England.

The mental health impact of the pandemic on children and young people has been widely reported. In July 2020 NHS Digital undertook a survey¹⁴ of the mental health of children and young people across England, a follow-up to a 2017 survey. This latest survey found that rates of probable mental disorder in children aged 5 - 16 years have increased from one in nine (10.8%) in 2017 to one in six (16.0%) in 2020. The likelihood of a probable mental disorder increased with age, and there was a noticeable difference in gender for the older age group (17 - 22 years); 27.2% of young women and 13.3% of young men were identified as having a probable mental disorder in 2020.

Dementia is now the leading cause of death in the UK. 1.29% of the Woking population (which equates to 1,370 people)¹⁵ is living with dementia. This is broadly in line with the UK average of 1.29%. The number of people with dementia is predicted to rise by up to 35% by 2025 and 146% by 2050.

The remainder of this chapter summaries the wider determinants of health and key services and facilities in Woking with a more detailed analysis in Appendix B.

Health behaviours

	HEADLINES	KEY SERVICES AND FACILITIES
SMOKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7.6% of adults in Woking smoke, lower than both Surrey (12.2%) and England (13.9%) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One You Surrey provides smoking cessation services across the county
DIET	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obesity prevalence (8.5%) – highest rate in Surrey Childhood obesity rates higher than Surrey averages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ‘Be Your Best’ weight management programme (Surrey wide) Foodwise Foodbanks
EXERCISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over a quarter of adults and almost a third of children do less than 30 minutes moderate intensity physical activity a week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leisure facilities, sports clubs Cycle routes

¹³

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/lonelinessratesandwellbeingindicatorbylocalauthority>

¹⁴ <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2020-wave-1-follow-up>

¹⁵ https://app.polimapper.co.uk/?dataSetKey=38d03a57d2f948c8b577839a1cf16543#_=&con_over=Woking

ALCOHOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate for alcohol-related harm admissions lower than Surrey and England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i-access drug and alcohol service (Surrey wide)
SEXUAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rate of new STIs lower than Surrey and England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sexual Health Clinic at Woking Community Hospital (commissioned by Public Health)

Socio economic factors

	HEADLINES	KEY SERVICES AND FACILITIES
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Average 8 attainment score better than both Surrey and England % of working age population qualified to at least Level 2 or higher is above South East average 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Surrey County Council is responsible for education – 30+ primary schools, 10 secondary schools, 4 further education institutions
EMPLOYMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, unemployment has been below national average but slightly higher than Surrey Youth unemployment 7.7% vs 5.8% in Surrey Pandemic has had an impact and will continue to do so 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Growth Strategy Strategy with Department for Work and Pensions for youth training and skills development
INCOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woking is one of the 20% least deprived districts/unitary authorities in England 9.7% of children live in low income families (Surrey: 12.9%) 	
FAMILY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 14,000 single person households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Centres and Family Support Programme Targeted youth-work Centres for the Community Volunteer management and charity support Social prescribing Carers support

<p>COMMUNITY SAFETY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall Woking is a safe place. • Rates of violent crime above south east average and rate of anti-social behaviour above Surrey and England averages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Woking Partnership • Woking Street Angels • Your Sanctuary
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Environment

	HEADLINES	KEY SERVICES AND FACILITIES
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 15% of Woking is green space, higher than Surrey and England • Air pollutants in line with Surrey and England 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woking 2050 • Climate Emergency Action Plan • Planet Woking • Natural Woking
<p>BUILT ENVIRONMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing house prices • Rents above Housing Benefit • Need for affordable homes • Overcrowding above Surrey average • Increase in homeless households 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheerwater regeneration programme • Housing strategy • Planning approach considers health and wellbeing • Wide range of services to support people in own homes: Independent Support Service, HomeSafe Plus, Handyperson Service, Community Meals, Careline, Woking Independence Show Home, Homelink, Falls Responder Service, Woking Safer Living and Independence Consultancy Clinic, Home2Home Service

Clinical care

Physical and mental health and care services are provided by a range of organisations including NHS providers, Surrey County Council and the voluntary and community sector.

Although the Council has limited influence over the quality of clinical care, it can and does influence access to clinical care, for example through the provision of space for health services in the local community and ensuring transport provides easy access to health services.

- In November 2020 outpatient physiotherapy services were relocated from Ashford and St Peter’s Hospital to five new physio rooms at Woking Leisure Centre to

improve access, provide the opportunity to link recovery programmes with exercise at the gym and encourage local residents to access facilities and activities they may never have done before.

In addition, the stigma in relation to mental health issues can prevent people from seeking help and the Council can play a role in reducing this.

- In 2019, Woking was recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as the first Dementia Friendly Community in Surrey.

Our priorities

We have identified five key priorities to address the main challenges and inequalities set out in the previous chapter. These priorities will guide us to deliver our vision for the health and wellbeing of the Woking population:

“Everyone in Woking lives a healthy and independent life”

1. We will support, and wherever possible improve, the mental health of people in Woking.

Mental health is a positive state of mind and body, feeling safe and able to cope, with a sense of connection with people, communities and the wider environment¹⁶. Our mental health influences our physical health, as well as our capability to lead a healthy lifestyle and to manage and recover from physical health conditions. Mental health was a strong theme from the staff workshops (see Engagement chapter) and is aligned with the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy which has “supporting the mental health and emotional wellbeing of people in Surrey” as one of its three priorities.

We will seek to prevent poor mental health and support people with mental health needs, including dementia, learning disabilities, autism and substance misuse. We will achieve this by ensuring that our services are inclusive and accessible by signposting people with mental health needs to other services that will assist them in accessing the appropriate help and resources, and by creating communities and environments that support good mental health.

“There are lots of really good charities and services available to people, but it is hard to know when or how to refer people and what services are right for the situation.”
(WBC staff member)

Mental health is a priority for our **whole population**. In addition, we have identified **children and young adults** as a particular focus group because of the increasing number of children experiencing mental health problems and the strong association between experiencing mental health problems in childhood and then in adulthood¹⁷. Delivery of this priority is likely to involve working with families.

Our objective is to improve overall mental health and ensure that those with mental health issues feel supported.

2. We will identify and support people experiencing social isolation and loneliness in Woking.

¹⁶

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/138253/dh_124058.pdf

¹⁷ Research shows that around half of all lifetime mental health problems start by mid- teens, and three-quarters by the mid-20s.

Loneliness and social isolation are different but related concepts. Loneliness is a subjective feeling about the gap between a person's desired levels of social contact and their actual level of social contact. It refers to the perceived quality of a person's relationships. Social isolation is a lack of social connections. It is an objective measure of the quantity (not quality) of relationships. People may choose to have a small number of contacts.¹⁸ People can become socially isolated for a variety of reasons including leaving the workplace, the deaths of spouses and friends or through disability, illness or ageing.

People can be isolated (alone) yet not feel lonely. People can be surrounded by other people, yet still feel lonely. We will therefore seek to increase opportunities for people to meet or speak (to reduce social isolation) as well as helping build, maintain and re-establish meaningful relationships to combat loneliness.

Again, this priority aligns with the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy which states, in relation to its priority of mental health and emotional wellbeing, that it will be focusing on "preventing isolation and enabling support for those who do feel isolated". Social isolation and loneliness also emerged as themes in the staff workshops.

We have identified **older people** as a focus group because there is strong evidence that many adults aged 50 and over are socially isolated or lonely in ways that put their health at risk. Within this focus group, we will consider interventions that target specific cohorts as we understand these interventions can be more successful¹⁹ and have heard from staff that there are some gaps in existing services.

"We are short of ways of engaging with certain people, for example, single men or father-only families."

(WBC staff member)

We have also noted the emerging evidence of the impact this pandemic and lockdowns have had on social isolation and loneliness in other groups (for example, males living alone where we have seen a significant increase in social prescribing referrals). However, we propose that as part of the strategy review (see Governance chapter) we consider the longer term impacts of the pandemic before determining whether we need to include any additional focus groups within this priority.

Our objective is to reduce the number of people experiencing social isolation and loneliness in Woking. This will include identifying people in Woking who are socially isolated or lonely so that they can be supported.

"We need to join up more with partners to find those who are isolated and get the community back on board."

(WBC staff member)

3. We will reduce obesity rates in Woking.

¹⁸ <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/our-impact/policy-research/loneliness-research-and-resources/loneliness-isolation-understanding-the-difference-why-it-matters/>

¹⁹ See 'key considerations linked to the known evidence base' at <https://www.calderdale.gov.uk/v2/residents/health-and-social-care/joint-strategic-needs-assessment/older-people/loneliness-and-social#key-considerations>

Obesity is a significant issue in Woking. We will tackle it by focusing on the main causes of obesity – poor diet and low levels of physical activity. This is aligned with the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy which has as one of its three priorities “helping people in Surrey to lead healthy lives” stating that it will focus on “working to reduce obesity and excess weight rates and physical inactivity.” The white paper published in February 2021 also references the importance of active lives.

We have identified **children** as a focus group. Children who are overweight or living with obesity are much more likely to become adults living with obesity and have a higher risk of morbidity, disability and premature mortality in adulthood. We will also focus on **pregnant women and parents** as influencers of children and young people.

Canalside, Goldsworth Park and Hoe Valley are outliers in relation to the proportion of overweight and obese children and adults and inactive adults compared to the rest of the borough. We have therefore identified them as focus wards.

Our objective is to increase the proportion of children who have a healthy weight and are active.

4. We will empower residents to live independent lives.

We will provide services that support people to live as independently as possible, do so, ideally in their own homes. This is aligned with the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy which states, in relation to its priority of healthy lives, that it will focus on “helping people to live independently for as long as possible and to die well.” The white paper published in February 2021 sets out a vision for helping people live more independent lives for longer.

We have identified **older people (65+)** as a focus group because this is the largest group most at risk of a decline in their independence (due to ageing). It is also a growing group.

Our objective is to support residents to live independently, whilst retaining connection to their communities, for as long as possible.

5. We will support the wellbeing of carers.

We will support carers in a way that enables them to continue their important caring responsibilities and minimises the impact of these duties on their own physical and mental health. Carers are under-recognised, yet the value of unpaid care in the UK is roughly equivalent to the annual budget of the NHS.

This priority is aligned with the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy which identifies young and adult carers as a specific target group.

We will support **all carers, including young carers**, with the objective of improving their wellbeing.

We have developed a plan which sets out the key actions for 2021/22 against each of the priorities, see Appendix A. In developing this plan we have been mindful of the following principles:

- **Supporting diversity and inclusion** – we have sought to identify actions which will be accessible to the different communities across our borough;
- **Partnership working** – we recognise that we cannot address the wider determinants of health alone and will build on our collaborative work with public sector partners, (including the voluntary, community and faith sectors) to harness the skills, expertise, assets and goodwill of local communities. Staff workshops highlighted an appetite for more effective partnership working and our action plan includes key opportunities we have identified to collaborate with partners in delivering this strategy;
- **Resident engagement** – engaging with our residents in a meaningful way will be critical to the success of this strategy and we have set out our planned approach in the Engagement chapter;
- **Building on our strengths** – in staff workshops we heard how valued our holistic, person-centred approach is by our residents. We also know we have assets, such as our Centres for the Community, which could be better utilised to support health and wellbeing and have considered this in developing our action plan; and
- **Utilising digital approaches where appropriate** – in developing our action plan we have considered opportunities to provide digital services to our residents to improve their health and wellbeing. This will be supported by the council's Digital Transformation Strategy which will include a Connected Citizens programme to ensure that all residents, businesses and visitors of Woking have access to the internet and council-operated digital services. In developing any digital support for health and wellbeing we will consider design, awareness, staff capability and capacity and digital inclusion initiatives such as access through alternative channels (telephone, face to face) and help from others to use online services.

We have identified effective internal communications as a key enabler in delivery of this strategy. Staff workshops identified that not all staff were aware of all the ways in which the council can support the health and wellbeing of its residents and as a result signposting opportunities can be missed. The action plan recognises that internal communications are the responsibility of everyone working for the council and includes activities to strengthen internal communications to support delivery of this strategy.

Metrics

For each of our priorities we have identified the key metrics we will track to understand the impact of our strategy.

Priority	Focus groups / areas	Metric	Source	Baseline data (period)	Frequency of data release (next data release due)
Mental health	Whole population	Self-reported measure of anxiety where 0 is 'not at all anxious' and 10 is 'completely anxious'.	Office for National Statistics Annual Population Survey ²⁰	3.61 (2019/20)	Annual (To be announced – 2019/20 data was released in July 2020)
	Children and young adults	% of secondary school pupils responding that they worry about at least one of the issues listed 'quite a lot' or 'a lot'.	Health Related Behaviour Questionnaire ²¹	The sample sizes historically have not been large enough to breakdown at a district / borough level	Every two years (data will next be collected in September 2021 and is expected to be published in January 2022)
Social isolation and loneliness	Older people	% of older people reporting that they feel lonely 'often' or 'always'.	National dataset ²² is a small sample (140 people in Woking), cannot be broken down by age group at a local authority level and is not currently intended to be collected regularly. It is therefore proposed that we utilise the Residents' Panel to collect data on loneliness in Woking.	To be collected in Q3 2021/22	Annual

²⁰ <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/headlineestimatesofpersonalwellbeing>

²¹ Surrey data can be found at <https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/23k5j/health-related-behaviour-questionnaire>. Breakdown for schools in Woking obtained from SCC. Issues listed in the survey: school, your health, your career, relationships with friends, relationships between parents/carers in your family, relationships between children and parents/carers in your family, relationships with boyfriends/girlfriends, the way you look, HIV/AIDs, puberty and growing up, thinking you are gay/lesbian/bisexual, crime and being bullied.

²² ONS Opinions and Lifestyle Survey <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/datasets/lonelinessratesandwellbeingindicatorsbylocalauthority>

Priority	Focus groups / areas	Metric	Source	Baseline data (period)	Frequency of data release (next data release due)
Obesity	Children and young people, pregnant women and parents Canalside, Goldsworth Park and Hoe Valley	Rate of childhood obesity in Year R (aged 4 to 5)	National Child Measurement Programme ²³	Woking: 7.3% (2019/20) (ward level data not available)	Note: the programme has been paused since April 2020 and no data will be available for 2020/21. The programme is restarting in May 2021 but the sample sizes may not be large enough to breakdown at a local authority level and therefore data for Woking may not be available until 2022/23.
		Rate of childhood obesity in Year 6 (aged 10 to 11)		Woking: 15.9% Canalside: 20.6% Goldsworth Park: 19.4% Hoe Valley: 17.1% (2019/20)	
	% of inactive children	Active Lives children and young people survey ²⁴	Woking: 28.8% (2017/18) (ward level data not available)	Annual (released in December). 2017/18 is the most recent dataset with a large enough sample size to be broken down at a district/borough level. Active Surrey is working with schools to maximise the number running the survey with their pupils and hopes to increase sample sizes so that data can once again be broken down at a district/borough level in the future.	

²³ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/national-child-measurement-programme>

²⁴ https://www.sportengland.org/know-your-audience/data/active-lives/active-lives-data-tables?section=children_and_young_people_surveys

Priority	Focus groups / areas	Metric	Source	Baseline data (period)	Frequency of data release (next data release due)
		% of inactive adults	Active Lives adult survey ²⁵	Woking: 28.0% (data gathered mid-November 2019 to mid-November 2020) (ward level data for Nov 19/20 not yet available)	Twice a year (May data released the following October and November data released the following April)
Independence	Older people (65+)	To be confirmed by end September 2021			
Carers	All carers, including young carers	Number of adult carers supported by WBC Number of carers prescriptions Number of young carers participating in Woking Young Carers project or being supported by WBC Youth Development Officer	WBC internal records	Adult carers: not currently captured Number of carer prescriptions: 13 (Q4 2020/21) Young carers: 15 (as at 27 April 2021)	N/A - records held on an ongoing basis but will be reported quarterly. This metric is an output, rather than outcome, measure. It is proposed to review this metric at the end of Year 1 and consider if the Residents' Panel could be utilised to collect data on carers' outcomes (including consideration of the use of the NICE Adult Carers Support Quality Statements published in March 2021 ²⁶).

²⁵ <https://www.sportengland.org/know-your-audience/data/active-lives/active-lives-data-tables>

²⁶ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/gs200/chapter/Quality-statements>

Engagement

Engagement in developing strategy

This strategy has been developed during the third wave of the pandemic and a national lockdown. As a result there was limited opportunity to directly engage with residents in a meaningful way. We have been very conscious of the pressures both council staff and our residents have been under during this time, but did not want to delay the development of the strategy given the impact of the pandemic on health and wellbeing.

However, we have scrutinised the results of other engagement exercises and taken this into account when determining the five priorities described in the previous chapter and formulating our action plan (see Appendix A). These included:

- The **Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy** which was informed by residents' views gathered through formal surveys and feedback provided on a draft version of the Strategy. As described in the previous chapter, there is a strong alignment between our priorities and those of the Surrey Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- The Woking **Redeeming Our Communities** conversation²⁷ which held a well-attended engagement event in March 2020 and identified provision of activities for youth, social isolation and mental health as the top three community issues. Again, this aligns with our priorities. We will continue to work closely with Woking ROC to ensure our approach is shaped by the views of residents, including review of the results of the ROC Loneliness and isolation survey which are expected to be available in June 2021; and
- Surrey County Council's **Day Opportunities Survey** which was an online survey that closed in February 2021 and had nearly 600 respondents aged 60+ from across the county (including 59 from Woking). The survey found that 'walking, gardening and accessing nature' was the most popular activity (valued by 89% of respondents) followed by 'exercise' (58%). The survey also found that after the internet, the most popular way (utilised by almost 50% of respondents) of finding out about local activities was through friends and families.

In addition we have engaged with council staff who directly interact with residents on a day-to-day basis across a wide range of services. In a series of workshops attended by more than 90 members of staff in December 2020 and January 2021, we explored what we do well (assets to build on) and opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents. A strong theme from these workshops was the necessity of resident engagement. We tested our emerging priorities in two further sessions with staff in February 2021 and feedback from these sessions informed the focus groups for each priority.

We have also tested and shared our priorities with key partners including Surrey County Council, neighbouring districts and boroughs, Surrey Heartlands CCG, NWS ICP, Woking Mind, Royal Horticultural Society, Catalyst, Action for Carers Surrey and Active Surrey, drawing on their expertise and experiences working with people in Woking to inform our plans. We will continue to work closely with these and other partners in implementing our strategy.

Planned engagement approach

²⁷ <https://roc.uk.com/woking/>

Resident engagement is at the heart of how we want to work. Our recently published Corporate Plan 2021/22²⁸ describes the **Big Conversation** and a process of continuous dialogue with residents to help inform our decision making and incorporate ongoing feedback into our plans.

This includes a relaunch of the Woking Residents' Panel which will act as a sounding board for new initiatives and creation of an online civic space that will enable us to share plans for the future and provide a safe space for residents to feedback and share their views. We will use these new initiatives explore how best to engage and involve residents in this strategy.

We also plan to launch local community stakeholder groups in the Centres for the Community which will meet quarterly. They will review current use and opportunities for the centres, focussing on the needs of residents in the local area. These have been included in our action plan against the social isolation and loneliness priority but are also a key part of our future engagement approach.

We are committed to engaging in a way that values diversity, recognising the contribution made by our diverse communities to the borough's economic, social and cultural wellbeing, as described in our Diversity Policy²⁹.

Wherever possible, we will seek to co-design solutions with residents, and build on existing approaches, such as those developed by the Resident Engagement Team within Housing Services where relevant. For example, our action plan includes the identification of tenant representatives in sheltered accommodation units and Brockhill to participate in projects to re-open common rooms. We also intend to relaunch Woking Youth Council later this year and engage with this forum to shape the planned activities for the mental health and obesity priorities.

Engagement can take a number of forms, including digital. We recognise that this form may act as a barrier to access for some people. The action plan therefore includes a digital inclusion project which, as well as increasing opportunities for residents to access digital services, will equip residents to engage with the council digitally, for example via the online civic space.

²⁸ <https://moderngov.woking.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=17045>

²⁹ <https://www.woking.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Jobs/bevdp.pdf>

Governance

The council set up a Health and Wellbeing Task Group (originally known as the Health and Wellbeing Board) in 2014. The Task Group has met on a regular basis (currently every two months) and has been chaired by one of the four Borough and County Councillors, appointed to it annually. The work of the Task Group included monitoring the delivery of the health and wellbeing action plan, which encompassed a wide range of activities across the council.

Following the elections in May 2021 the council will ensure there are appropriate arrangements in place to drive delivery of the strategy. This will include oversight of delivery of the strategic action plan (see Appendix A) on a quarterly basis and monitoring of the impact of the strategy through annual review of the metrics described in the Priorities chapter.

The council is committed to the five identified priorities for the duration of this strategy (ten years) and recognises that a long-term approach will be required for the desired impact on health and wellbeing. However, changes to the geographic areas and population cohorts of focus for each priority may be necessary, particularly as the long-term effects of the pandemic become clearer. It is therefore proposed that on an annual basis the Task Group should review the available evidence and specifically consider whether any refinements are needed to the focus groups or wards of the priorities.

A senior manager has been identified as a sponsor for each priority. Sponsors will ensure:

- The action plan is updated in advance of each Task Group meeting to reflect progress made and incorporate new actions that have been identified;
- The action plan includes actions to deliver the strategic objective for the priority and focuses on any specific groups or wards identified for that priority; and
- The action plan reflects the principles described in the Priorities chapter (supporting diversity and inclusion, partnership working, resident engagement, building on our strengths and utilising digital approaches where appropriate).

The council recognises that the health and wellbeing of the Woking population is impacted by a huge number of other organisations and will continue to work collaboratively and actively participate in partnership forums, including, for example, Woking Joint Mental Health Working Group, to ensure work programmes are aligned where relevant.

Appendix A: Action Plan

This action plan captures the specific activities to deliver the borough's priorities as described in this strategy. It is not intended to capture all of the services or projects within the council that impact on people's health and wellbeing.

We recognise that many of these actions will impact upon more than one priority but to avoid duplication we have only captured each activity under one priority.

Actions planned for Year 1 (2021/22) are generally more detailed than those planned in Years 2 and 3. This action plan will be a live document updated over the life of the strategy (see Governance chapter).

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
Mental health	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	<i>Focus group: Whole population</i>		
		Seek funding (from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government) for an additional mental health worker in the housing team.	Catherine Butler, Housing Needs Manager	May 2021
		Promote and co-ordinate Dementia Action week (17-23 May 2021).	Michelle Chilcott, Independent Living and Extra Care Manager	May 2021
		Review Housing Assistance Policy to consider how clearance of hoarded properties on discharge from hospital can be funded.	Helen Kempall, Homelink Manager	August 2021
		Identify mental health groups / organisations to apply for RHS community free ticketing scheme.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	May 2021 and September 2021
		Work with partners to co-design and co-produce the Green Social Prescribing 'Test and Learn' site (one of	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	September 2021

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		seven in England) with the aim of connecting people with nature-based interventions and activities.		
		Explore the benefits of using, and opportunities for funding, Elemental (a digital platform for social prescribing) across social prescribing, hospital discharge and other health and wellbeing teams.	Gary Cordery, Community Wellbeing Manager	September 2021
		Improve the advertisement of walking routes and introduce walking sessions.	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	September 2021
		Restart Couch to 5k sessions at Woking Sportsbox.	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	September 2021
		Develop specification for a community garden space in Woking for the Wisley School of Horticulture Design and Build Project in 2022.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	October 2021
		Explore making Surrey mental health services and dementia training mandatory for all frontline staff at WBC.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	November 2021
		Explore making it mandatory for all managers at WBC to complete training around mental health support for employees.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	December 2021
		Launch a parenting course run by Family Services to support families from local ethnic minority communities, in partnership with local faith and community groups.	Zafar Iqbal, Senior Policy Officer	December 2021

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Organise, and offer to the public, at least six Dementia Friends Awareness sessions per annum.	Michelle Chilcott, Independent Living and Extra Care Manager	March 2022
		Identify and assist with the creation of five new Local Dementia Action Alliances per alliance.	Michelle Chilcott, Independent Living and Extra Care Manager	March 2022
		Promote staff training around understanding suicide and attempted suicide and explore making this training mandatory for key frontline staff.	Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager	March 2022
		Secure agreement on multi-agency Surrey-wide hoarding protocol (to include joined up database and panel meetings to discuss cases) and implement the protocol.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Explore the opportunity for Surrey County Council to fund and support staff training on hoarding to improve understanding and awareness.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Identify the organisations in Woking which offer bereavement support and provide appropriate staff with adequate training to offer assistance in bereavement situations including signposting to relevant services.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		<i>Focus group: children and young adults</i>		

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Support and promote Domestic Abuse Awareness Week (14-18 June 2021), including staff awareness training provided by Your Sanctuary.	Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager	June 2021
		Explore opportunities for pilots of children's mental health services in Woking as part of recommissioned CAMHS service, including the provision of services in community, family and other suitable public centres. Consider wider mental health provision in these locations.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	July 2021
		Provide accommodation for Catalyst in Moorcroft Centre for the Community to embed mental health services in the local community.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	July 2021
		Support promotion of RHS Green Plan It Challenge (teams of six Year 8 pupils supported by expert garden designers to design an open green space) to secondary schools.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	September 2021
		Partner with NHS maternity services to offer antenatal and postnatal parent support groups such as breastfeeding workshops and postnatal depression support groups in Centres for the Community. Explore the opportunity to partner with RHS to provide access to Wisley for these groups.	Nicola Norman, Family Services Manager	September 2021
		Promote the Woking Mind and Catalyst joint campaign regarding mental health awareness.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	September 2021

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Increase the number of open access youth clubs (Knaphill and Goldsworth Park), and attendance by working with Surrey Clubs for Young People to develop new arrangements following SCC consultation.	Sandie Bolger, Youth Development Officer	October 2021
		Explore partnership opportunities with the Lightbox and utilise the Centre for the Community facilities to host joint projects.	Rose Blackley, Arts Development Officer	October 2021
		Family Services to design after school weekly tea and activity sessions for primary aged children at Moorcroft Centre for the Community in partnership with Foodwise and other wellbeing providers.	Nicola Norman, Family Services Manager	December 2021
Social isolation and loneliness	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	<i>Focus group: older people</i>		
		Support Freshstart CIC to launch outdoor projects.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	May 2021
		Work with Art in Transit to evaluate “Puppets Points of View” pilot project (a 10-week creative response project looking at the impact lockdown has had on mental health) which includes participants from youth groups.	Rose Blackley, Arts Development Officer	June 2021
		Review physical and cultural offer of the Centres for the Community (including relaunch of classes to maintain strength and balance as part of empowering independence priority).	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	June 2021

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Identify tenant representatives in sheltered accommodation units and Brockhill to participate in projects to re-open common rooms.	Sean Lee, Independent Support Manager	July 2021
		Explore opportunities to support Men in Sheds projects to reduce social isolation and loneliness, including potential Holme Farm development in partnership with Runnymede Borough Council.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	September 2021
		Review findings of ROC loneliness and isolation survey (expected to be available June 2021) to inform future plans.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	September 2021
		Launch intergenerational activities in Byfleet, Westfield and Knaphill, linking the Centres with local primary schools for interactive activities.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	September 2021
		Launch local community stakeholder groups in the Centres for the Community. These will meet quarterly and review current use and opportunities for the Centres, focussing on the needs of residents in the local area.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	December 2021
		Promote and support bids from community groups for RHS Greening Great Britain which provides grants of up to £500 for small neighbourhood projects.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	April 2022
		Promote RHS 'Grow Social' and 'Great Soup Share' campaigns in Centres for the Community.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	April 2022

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
Obesity	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	<i>Focus group: children, pregnant women and parents</i> <i>Focus wards: Canalside, Goldsworth Park and Hoe Valley</i>		
		Re-launch Friday Night Project (subsidised sports youth provision) at Woking Leisure Centre and extend to Sheerwater Leisure Centre when it opens.	Abby Woodhouse, Woking Active Communities Manager, Freedom Leisure	June 2021 (dependent on easing of lockdown restrictions)
		Support the Be Your Best programme through leisure centre staff attendance of the last two programme sessions and offer of free services.	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	Fully operational from end June 2021
		Re-launch weekly junior and adult Park Run events (including advertising sessions through social media and website) and investigate the potential to introduce an event at Brookwood Country Park.	Jack Gallop, Sports Development Officer	June 2021
		Deliver healthy eating workshops, including cooking, at each of the youth centres with access to a kitchen.	Sandie Bolger, Youth Development Officer	July 2021
		Progress Club 4 bid with Active Surrey for holiday, activity and food programme in summer 2021.	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	July 2021
		Deliver Surrey Youth Games alternative project (for adults and children) with a focus on BAME females.	Jack Gallop, Sports Development Officer	September 2021
		Improve cycling provision, both instructed and free access through the launch of British Cycling 'Ride Out' programme (a turn up and enjoy social session),	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	September 2021

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		bicycle hire scheme, and development of a venue to teach bike maintenance (targeting fathers and children with the intention of improving social networks for fathers).		
		Consider opportunities to better promote the community and concession pricing structure at gyms, including how it can be promoted to families and pregnant mothers.	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	September 2021
		Link Central Surrey Health, Health Link Worker Jabeen Quereshi with wider family and maternity services in Sheerwater at Parkview to develop engagement with healthy lifestyle activities targeted at women from the Asian community.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	September 2021
		Collaborate on Homestart bid with Active Surrey for Whole System Approach to Obesity.	Nicola Norman, Family Services Manager	September 2021
		Support Foodwise to run healthy cooking classes for vulnerable families and healthy cooking support for care leavers at the Centres for the Community.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	September 2021
		Open Eastwood Leisure Centre in Sheerwater.	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	September 2021
		Develop an enhanced cycling facility at Goldsworth Park (with Sport Cycling funding).	Steve May, Leisure Services Manager	Q3 2021/22

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Enhance the relationship between PCNs and Social Prescribing to increase referrals into weight management programmes.	Gary Cordery, Community Wellbeing Manager	December 2021
		Launch healthy eating workshops for Woking ethnic minority communities, working with local faith leaders and health link workers.	Zafar Iqbal, Senior Policy Officer	December 2021
		Explore the potential to add a category to Woking in Bloom 2022 with a link to obesity (e.g. vegetable garden category).	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	Q4 2021/22
		Re-launch Surrey Youth Games in 2022 and increase participation.	Jack Gallop, Sports Development Officer	June 2022
Empowering independence	Julie Mémé Health and Wellbeing Manager	<i>Focus group: older people (65+)</i>		
		Support the Active Surrey targeted falls prevention programme pilot by exploring how social prescribers can refer into the programme, promoting the programme to care homes and providing facilities as required.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	July 2021
		Increase the provision of extra care accommodation through the opening of Hale End Court which will include 12 units with extra care.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	September 2021
		Confirm metric for empowering independence which will be used to report strategy progress.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	September 2021

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Launch 'Working Together for Woking' event to enable community support charities and groups to promote their work and network. This will be hosted in the town centre in partnership between WBC and local community networks.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	January 2022
		Explore the extension of the falls responder service beyond Careline clients with NWS ICP.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Explore with other partners (e.g. SECamb and reablement) how their services can benefit from Homesafe Plus services with callers diverted to Falls Responder Service where appropriate.	Jade Buckingham Integrated health Manager	April 2022
		Promote the Shop Mobility scheme.	Jade Buckingham Integrated Health Manager	April 2022
		Work with partners to increase utilisation of the Woking Independent Show Home.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Update Living Well leaflets to include all services available to Woking residents which can support independent living.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Develop a digital inclusion project, working with library services, Surrey Coalition and Woking ROC, including the exploration of utilising Centres for the Community for training.	Pino Mastromarco, Home Independence Manager	May 2022

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
Carers	Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager	<i>Focus group: carers</i>		
		Launch 'Dance for Parkinsons' for those living with Parkinsons and their carers at St Mary's Centre for the Community. Then link these sessions with a local primary school to make this an intergenerational project.	Rose Blackley, Arts Development Officer	May 2021 (for launch – link with primary school will be later)
		Relaunch the community choir that encourages carer attendance at Moorcroft Centre for the Community.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	June 2021
		Relaunch creative lunches at St Mary's Centre for the Community.	Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager	September 2021
		Introduce the use of Carers Prescription by Borough Discharge Support Officers at acute and community hospitals to identify and support carers.	Gary Cordery, Community Wellbeing Manager	September 2021
		Explore with Crossroads the provision of carers respite at Centres for the Community.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	September 2021
		Actively participate in discussions regarding the future of commissioned care services across NWS ICP (including attendance of the briefing event in June 2021).	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Add 'Carers' leaflet to 'Living Well' pack.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Establish links with care co-ordinators in PCNs.	Gary Cordery, Community Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Explore making carers training (including young carers) mandatory for council staff, to increase awareness amongst council employees and improve their ability to signpost.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager	April 2022
		Explore WBC gaining accreditation as a Carer Confident Employer.	Jade Buckingham Integrated Health Manager	April 2022
		Approach young carers groups in schools to see if there is any interest in the RHS Campaign for School Gardening.	Jade Buckingham, Integrated Health Manager	April 2022
Enablers	N/A	Arrange Communities Team workshops to share developments internally.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager / Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager / Steve May, Leisure Services Manager / Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager	June 2021 and quarterly thereafter

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Update team meeting agendas to include 'comms messages' as a standing item, to generate more content for internal and external communications. Appoint a named team member responsible for sharing these messages with the Communications Team.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager / Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager / Steve May, Leisure Services Manager / Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager	July 2021
		Consider the use of corporate communications email to allow updates received from teams (see action above) to be made quickly by any member of the communications team.	Andy Denner, Marketing Communications Manager	July 2021
		Each team across People directorate to update their area on WBC intranet.	Julie Mémé, Health and Wellbeing Manager / Adam Thomas, Family and Community Services Manager / Steve May, Leisure Services Manager / Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager	By end September 2021 and quarterly thereafter

Priority	Sponsor	Activities	Leading officer	Target date
		Promote 'Woking Works' to voluntary and community organisations that deliver health and wellbeing services.	Chris Norrington, Business Liaison Manager	September 2021
		Explore how the 'Woking Works' offer could be expanded to include advice on supporting the health and wellbeing of employees.	Chris Norrington, Business Liaison Manager	September 2021
		Relaunch Woking Youth Council, ensuring it is representative, and utilise it as a forum to engage on proposed activities for mental health and obesity priorities.	Sandie Bolger, Youth Development Officer	November 2021

Appendix B: Detailed analysis of wider determinants of health in Woking

Health behaviours

SMOKING

The smoking rate in Woking has more than halved in the last ten years. 7.6% of adults in Woking smoke, this is lower than both the South East region (12.2%) and England (13.9%). Smoking prevalence in pregnant women is also lower (7.4%) than both the South East region (9.7%) and England (10.4%).

One You Surrey (<https://oneyousurrey.org.uk/>) is commissioned by Surrey County Council and the NHS to provide smoking cessation services support throughout the county.

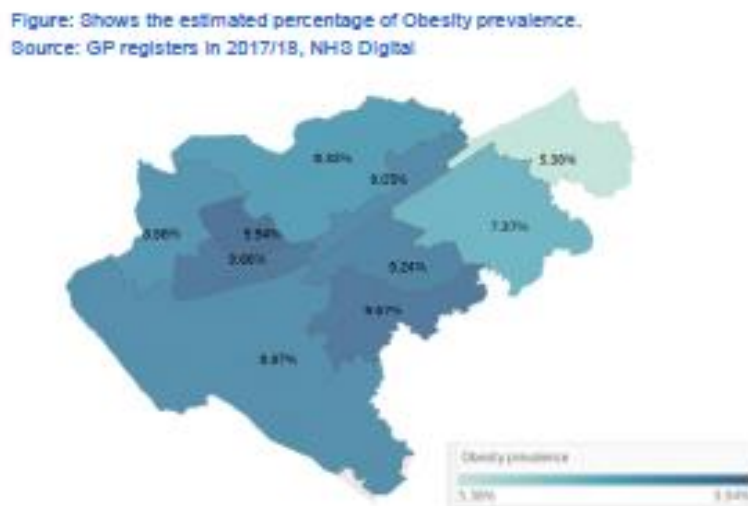
The council’s environmental health team is responsible for enforcing the smoke free law. The council is a tobacco-free site and smoking (including any tobacco products) and use of e-cigarettes are not permitted in any council workplace, building or vehicle.

DIET

60.2% of adults in Woking are classified as overweight or obese compared to 62.3% in England and 57.6% in the South East region. 8.5% of adults (8,500 people) in Woking are registered by their GP with obesity as a health condition. Again, although this is lower than the national average of 9.8%, it is higher than the Surrey rate of 6% and Woking ranks highest of the 11 boroughs and districts in Surrey.

Obesity is the single greatest risk factor for developing Type 2 diabetes and adults who are overweight or living with obesity are at an increased risk of serious Covid-19 complications and death.

The map below shows that though prevalence of obesity is highest in the centre of the borough it is largely similar throughout.

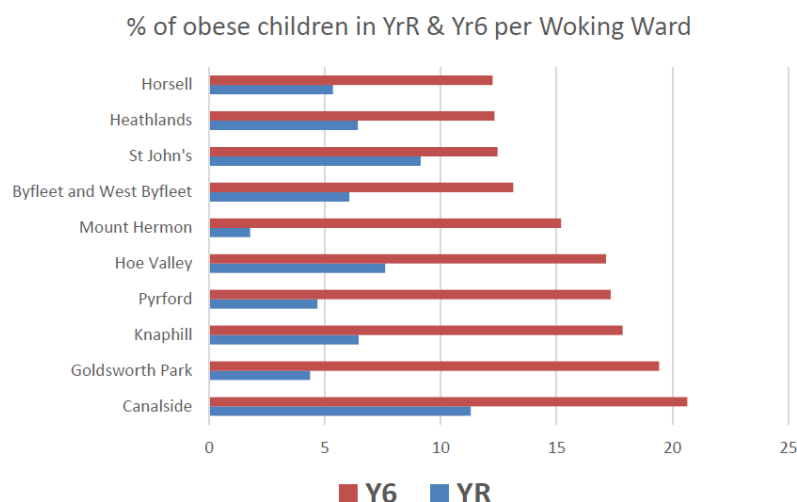


Goldsworth Park has the greatest obesity prevalence at 9.9%, followed by Hoe Valley and St. John’s (both at 9.6%). These three wards are the highest ranked wards in Surrey. Six of the top ten wards in Surrey for obesity prevalence are in Woking. All Woking wards apart from Byfleet and West Byfleet are above the Surrey average.

Childhood obesity statistics present a similar picture. This is a particular concern as children who are overweight or living with obesity are much more likely to become adults who are overweight or living with obesity.

Childhood obesity rates in Year R (ages 4-5) and Year 6 (ages 10-11) in Woking are 6.4% and 15.9% respectively, lower than the averages for England (9.6% and 20% respectively) but higher than the Surrey averages (6.2% and 14% respectively).

Per Ward, the breakdown is as follows:



Canalside has the highest percentage of obesity in both Year R (11.2%) and Year 6 (20.6% - one in five children of this age) and is above the national average for both age groups.

In 2018 the government announced a range of measures to halve the number of obese children by 2030. However, emerging data³⁰ suggests that lockdowns as a result of the pandemic have impacted children's lifestyles and increased their risk of being overweight or living with obesity. The Government's White Paper **Working Together to Improve Health and Social Care For All**, published in February 2021, signals the Department of Health and Social Care's intention to bring forward measures to help tackle obesity, including the introduction of further restrictions on the advertisement of high fat, salt and sugar foods.

In Woking there are a range of services aimed at improving the diet of residents, including:

- Be Your Best programme - Surrey's weight management programme, aimed at parents of children aged 0-11. This programme has been provided virtually during the pandemic and has supported nine families in Woking in 2021 to date;
- [Foodwise](#) – a Christian-based charity delivering food provision, training and education from community centres. During the pandemic, the focus of Foodwise has been on food provision to families and individuals deemed at risk of food insecurity. Foodwise has put freezers in four Woking primary schools so that schools can directly provide frozen meals (prepared by Foodwise – 100 meals provided at each school each fortnight) to families in need. In addition, Foodwise delivers to over 30 families each week (290 meals), more than double the number of families supported prior to the pandemic. Meals are prepared at Moorcroft Centre for the Community. Training and education has been suspended since March 2020 due to the pandemic but Foodwise is in the process of planning an offer in conjunction with the council's

³⁰ A study looking at the impact of Covid-19 confinement at home in a small cohort of Italian children found evidence of increased consumption of high calorie and sugar foods and decreased time spent in sport activities.

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Family Services for holiday hunger schemes, “Cooking on a Budget” courses, and employing local apprentices to work in the kitchens and café at the Centre for the Community; and

- Foodbanks – Woking Foodbank was set up eight years ago and provides short-term emergency food to people in crisis (there is also South Woking Foodbank which can provide longer term support and Bisley Primary School set up a foodbank during lockdown to support its children and their families). The majority of referrals to the Foodbank are from Citizens Advice, the council (various departments including Family Services and Housing Services) and schools and family centres. The Foodbank is primarily accessed by residents in Canalside (30% of Woking residents supported in 2020 were from this ward), Knaphill (15%), Goldsworth Park (12%) and Hoe Valley (12%). The Foodbank is supporting more people each year with a 48% increase in 2019 compared to the prior year and a further 36% in 2020, and is continuing to see increases month-on-month as a result of the pandemic. In January 2021 the Foodbank supported 740 people, a 126% increase compared to the same month the previous year. In 2020 the council supported the Foodbank with an Emergency Assistance Grant.

EXERCISE

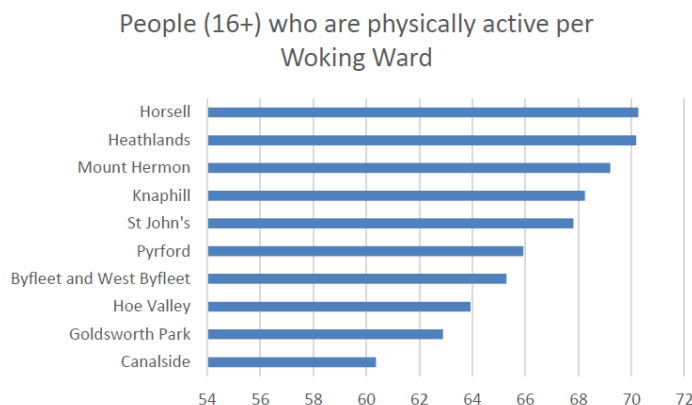
Just behind smoking, high blood pressure and obesity, the fourth biggest cause of disease in our population is lack of physical activity. As well as preventing physical ill health, exercise can also have a positive impact on mental wellbeing. In a recent survey undertaken by Active Surrey c. 75% of Woking residents surveyed reported that sport and exercise made them most happy and c. 70% reported that they do sport or exercise to manage their worries.

28.0% of people (aged 16+) in Woking are classed as inactive which means they do less than 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity a week. This compares to 23.2% in Surrey and 27.1% in England³¹ and Woking is the most inactive district or borough in Surrey. The figure for Woking has significantly increased over the past six months from 24.2%.

61.6% of people in Woking are classed as physically active, as they do at least 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week (Surrey: 65.4%, England: 61.4%).

This most recent data is not yet available at a ward level, but the breakdown by ward for the May 2019/20 data is as follows:

The breakdown by ward is as follows:



³¹ Source: <https://activelives.sportengland.org/Home/AdultData>

Canalside has the lowest percentage of physically active people (16+) at 63.5% and has the third highest percentage of inactive adults of all the wards in Surrey.

The most recent physical activity data³² for children and young people at a borough level is from 2017/18 which showed that almost a third (28.8%) of children did less than 30 minutes of activity each day. This was the third lowest compared to other Surrey boroughs and districts and lower than the Surrey average (30.9%).

Sport England has reported on the impact of the pandemic on activity levels. The proportion of the adult population classed as inactive increased by 7.4% during the first few weeks of full lockdown between mid-March and mid-May 2020³³. Sport England also found that the proportion of children and young people reporting they were active during mid-May to late-July 2020 fell by 2.3% compared to the same period 12 months earlier.³⁴ Sporting activities saw a large decrease in the numbers taking part, however, significant increases in walking, cycling and fitness activities limited the negative impact on overall activity levels.

The council recognises the importance of physical activity, as demonstrated by its endorsement of the Physical Activity Strategy for Surrey in 2019. The council provides leisure facilities (operated by Freedom Leisure) at Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Sportsbox and Pool in the Park. In 2019/20 Freedom Leisure provided almost 90,000 swimming lessons as part of a mixed programme of leisure, sport, recreation and competition activities, catering to a variety of groups and needs. The programme includes learning disability swimming lessons, walking football, dementia friendly swimming sessions, ladies football, ladies youth boxing and disability badminton courses. The facilities offer tiered pricing on both a pay as you go and monthly/annual basis, including reduced rates for those in full time education, receiving means tested benefits, disabled users and carers.

The council also operates a large number of sports pitches (football, cricket and rugby) and pavilions over 18 local greenspaces. In addition, there are a number of private providers running facilities across the borough.

The council has a Sports Development Officer who liaises with the wide range of sports clubs (over 75 in total) to ensure best use is made of the available facilities. Some clubs boast over 500 members ranging from elite participants to grassroots level. The council has a range of tennis courts and a community membership package at the newly refurbished courts in Woking Park which is hugely popular (775 active members and 77% court utilisation in 2020) and very accessible at £39 a year for up to six hours of tennis a week. The council also participates in annual events such as Surrey Youth Games and hosts the Woking Sports Awards to encourage more residents to be active.

Physical activity can be a form of travel such as walking or cycling everyday journeys. In England, 56% of car journeys are under five miles³⁵ and transport accounts for a third (34%)

³² Source: https://www.sportengland.org/know-your-audience/data/active-lives/active-lives-data-tables?section=children_and_young_people_surveys

³³ https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2020-10/Active%20Lives%20Adult%20May%2019-20%20Coronavirus%20Report.pdf?2L6TBVV5UvCGXb_VxZcWHcfFX0_wRaI7

³⁴ [https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Active%20Lives%20Children%20Survey%20Academic%20Year%2019-20%20Coronavirus%20report.pdf?2yHCzeG_iDUxK.qegt1GQdOmLiQcgThJP PowerPoint Presentation \(sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Active%20Lives%20Children%20Survey%20Academic%20Year%2019-20%20Coronavirus%20report.pdf?2yHCzeG_iDUxK.qegt1GQdOmLiQcgThJP PowerPoint Presentation (sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com))

³⁵

Department for Transport, Walking & cycling statistics (2018). [https:// assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/ file/674503/walking-and-cycling-statistics-england-2016.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674503/walking-and-cycling-statistics-england-2016.pdf)

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of all carbon dioxide emissions³⁶, the majority arising from road travel. Increasing active travel (walking and cycling) can therefore improve health through both reduced emissions and increased exercise as well as having a positive climate impact.

In 2008, Woking was awarded cycle demonstration town status and received £1.8m in government funding to develop a three-year infrastructure enhancement programme. Woking Borough Council delivered the Cycle Woking programme in partnership with Surrey County Council to help increase take up of walking and cycling, particularly for shorter journeys within the borough.

Just over 26km of new off-road cycle routes were constructed, 13km of which run along the Basingstoke Canal. The enhanced cycle network provided a 60% increase in dedicated cycle facilities and transformed the old fragmented network by improving connectivity to key places including the town centre and railway station.

The network was named the 'Planet Trails' giving a nod to local connections with HG Wells and the War of the Worlds, which was written and based in Woking.

Other infrastructure improvements have included new and improved signalised cycle crossings which allow safer access across busy roads, better signage and over a thousand new cycle parking spaces, including a dedicated secure Cycle Hub at Woking Railway Station. Since the improvements, Woking Town Centre has played host to Britain's leading televised cycle race, the Tour Series, five times.

In August 2020, a [Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan](#) (LCWIP) for Woking was published, one of the first in the UK. Development of the plan was funded by the Department of Transport, working with Surrey County Council and Woking Borough Council. This plan identifies cycling and walking infrastructure improvements for future investment to help further increase trips made on foot or by bicycle.

ALCOHOL USE

Alcohol misuse is the biggest risk factor for death, ill health and disability among 15-49 year olds in the UK, and the fifth biggest risk factor across all ages. The rate for alcohol-related harm hospital admissions in Woking is 506 per 100,000, representing 479 admissions per year. The rate is lower than the averages for both the South East region (526) and England (664).

The rate for alcohol-specific hospital admissions among those under 18 in Woking is 21 per 100,000, representing 15 admissions per year. Again, this is lower than both the South East region (31.7) and England (31.6) rates.

The i-access drug and alcohol service, provided by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, offers specialist advice, support and treatment to people in Surrey who want help with their drug and/or alcohol use. The council's Family Services team works in partnership with treatment providers where alcohol misuse is an issue for a family being supported and the Women's Support Centre actively supports women with substance misuse issues (including alcohol).

SEXUAL HEALTH

³⁶

2019 UK greenhouse gas emissions, provisional figures https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/875485/2019_UK_greenhouse_gas_emissions_provisional_figures_statistical_release.pdf

The rate of new sexually transmitted infections in Woking (529 per 100,000) is lower than the averages for the South East region (714) and England (900).

The Sexual Health Clinic at Woking Community Hospital is commissioned by Public Health and provides free confidential sexual health services, including contraception and genitourinary medicine (GUM) screening, treatment and follow-up.

Socio economic factors

EDUCATION

A key measure of educational attainment is the 'average 8 attainment score'³⁷. This is a measure of the average attainment of pupils in up to eight qualifications of GCSE and equivalent. Woking has an average 8 attainment score of 50.2, which is broadly in line with the Surrey average (50.3) and above England's (46.9). In addition, 81.9% of those aged 16-64 in Woking are qualified to Level 2 or higher, which is greater than the average for the South East (79.2%).

Surrey County Council is responsible for education. There are more than 30 primary schools in Woking, including five independent schools and two special schools (Freemantles, a school for children and young people with complex social communication needs, and Knowl Hill, a school for children with dyslexia and associated learning needs). There are ten secondary schools in Woking, including two independent schools and three special schools (Freemantles, Knowl Hill and Park School). There are four further education institutions in Woking for students aged 16 to 18 – Woking College, St John the Baptist Catholic Comprehensive School, Freemantles School and Hoe Valley School. All these institutions are rated outstanding by Ofsted apart from Woking College which is rated good.

EMPLOYMENT

In Woking, 51% of workers are in managerial, professional and technical occupations which is 10% above the average for the UK. The rate of employment (for those aged 16-64) is better in Woking (78.9%) than the England average (76.2%) but lower than the South East average (79.6%). However, this data is from 2019/20 and the economic impacts of the pandemic are now starting to be felt.

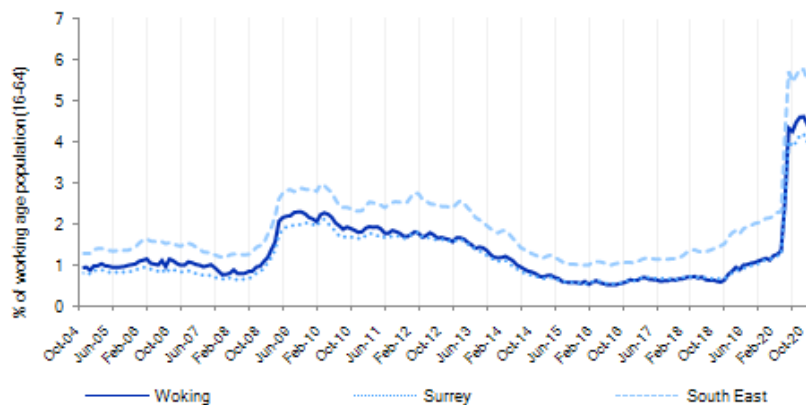
The chart below shows the month on month changes in the percentage of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit (UC) across Woking and comparator areas. A clear and large spike can be seen in spring 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

³⁷

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/561021/Progress_8_and_Attainment_8_how_measures_are_calculated.pdf

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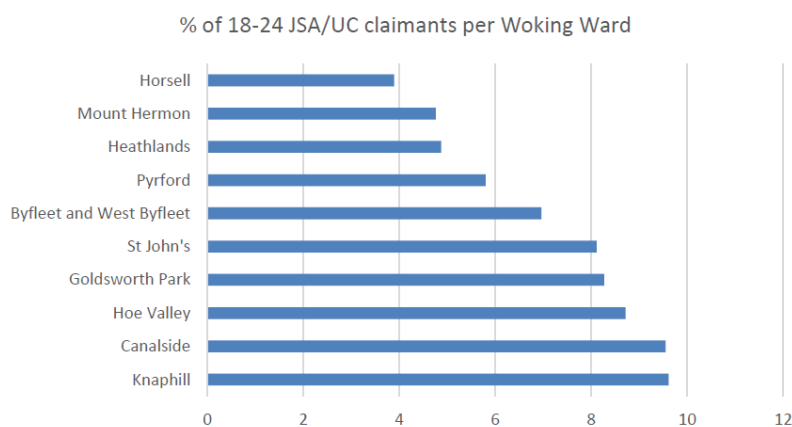
Figure: Unemployment benefit (Jobseekers Allowance/Universal Credit) claimants
Source: Department for Work and Pensions



In summer 2020 Surrey County Council undertook analysis of furlough data to identify at risk employees and Woking ranked seventh (out of eleven districts and boroughs) in Surrey for quantity of at risk employees. This analysis also looked at unemployment rates and identified that communities with the highest existing unemployment may also be hit hardest by future redundancies. Canalside and Hoe Valley appeared in the top two for both indicators.

Youth unemployment is a particular concern. 7.7% of 18-24 year olds in Woking claimed JSA or UC in March 2021 (South East: 7.9%, Great Britain: 9.1%)³⁸. The number of claimants in this category in Woking has more than tripled in the year since March 2020.

Per Ward, the breakdown is as follows:



Hoe Valley (9.7%) and St Johns (9.2%) have the highest figures which are above the national (9.2%), countywide (6.1%) and local average (7.9%). All Woking wards apart from Horsell are above the Surrey average.

Youth unemployment has also been significantly impacted by the pandemic. In December 2020 there were 882 Woking residents aged 18-24 in receipt of UC. Prior to the pandemic there were approximately 250 recipients at any one time.

The council's [Economic Development Strategy](#) 2017-2022 has five themes:

- Economic Dynamism;
- Economic Strength;
- People Skills and Workforce;
- Transport and Infrastructure; and

³⁸ https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157338/subreports/cca_time_series/report.aspx?

- Place Making.

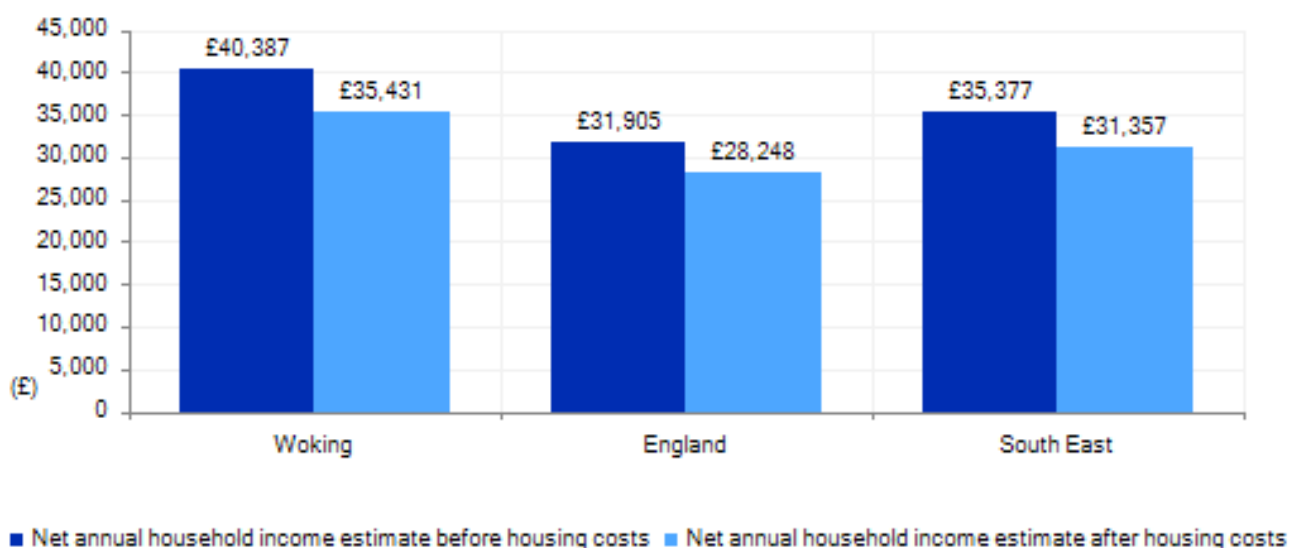
The priorities for action in the strategy include several designed to positively affect employment (and income) in Woking, including encouraging local recruitment.

The council has recently commissioned Surrey Care Trust to deliver a Youth Hub project to support 18-24 year olds in receipt of UC. This project launched in April 2021 based in Moorcroft Centre for the Community (which is in Westfield, Hoe Valley ward which has the highest level of UC/JSA claimants aged 18-24 in Woking) and also utilising centres in Byfleet and Knaphill. The project provides targeted support to help young people in Woking into employment through holistic support, links to business opportunities and the [Kickstart Scheme](#). In addition, within the community campus as part of the Sheerwater development (see case study on page [57]), the council will seek to incorporate support for young people in training and skills development.

INCOME

Woking is one of the 20% least deprived districts/unitary authorities in England³⁹.

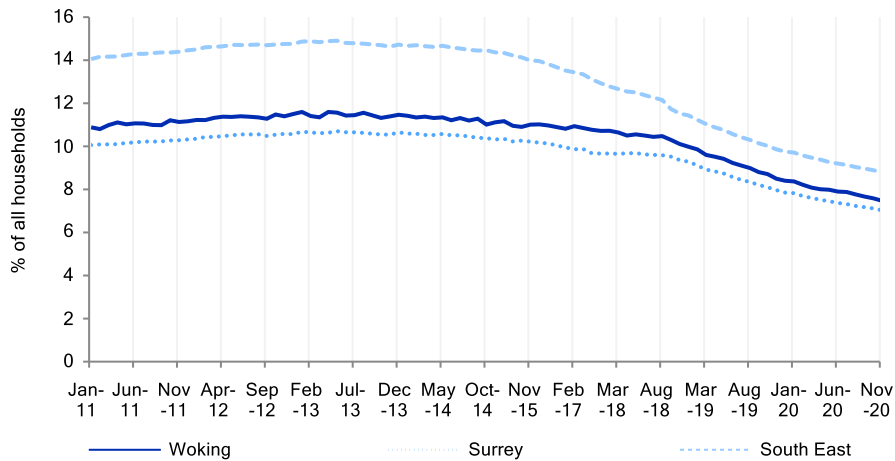
The chart below shows the estimated average annual household income (equivalised to consider variations in household size) across Woking and comparator areas before and after housing costs. It shows that Woking is more prosperous than the South East on average.



The chart below shows the trend for those claiming housing benefit. Woking ranks second highest in Surrey for housing benefit claimants, although Woking's housing benefit claimant numbers have been decreasing along with the national figures.

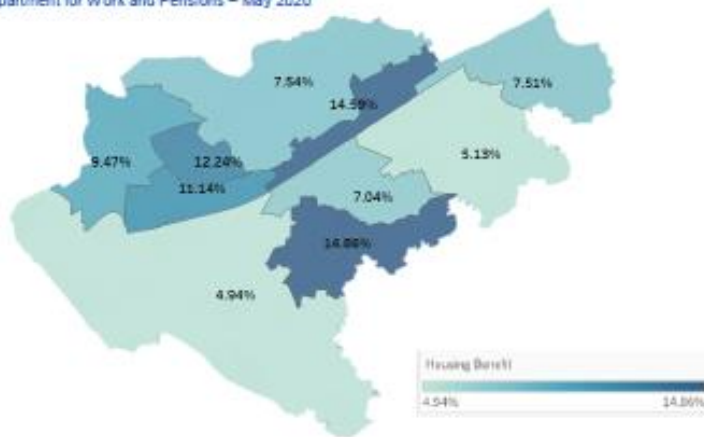
³⁹ Woking's Index of Deprivation score is 11.9 compared to an average for England of 21.9 (the more deprived an area, the higher the IMD score). None of Woking's lower super output areas fall among the most deprived 10% of small areas in England.

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The map below shows the breakdown of housing benefit claimants by ward. Canalside and Hoe Valley have the largest numbers of claimants.

Figure: Shows the proportion of households receiving Housing Benefit (HB)
Source: Department for Work and Pensions – May 2020



9.7% of children (under 16s) in Woking live in low income families, compared to 12.9% in the South East and 17.0% England.

Income is a particular issue for pensioners in Woking. 7.8% of pensioners in Woking receive pension credit, which equates to 1,345 pensioners. This is higher than the average across Surrey (6.8%) but lower than England (12.9%).

Per ward, the breakdown is as follows:



Of Woking wards, Canalside has the highest percentage (21%) of pensioners receiving pension credit and it is the second highest ward across the whole of Surrey. The percentage there is more than three times higher than the county average.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic can be measured by looking at the increase in claimants between March and April 2020, as well as estimates of the number of people furloughed. This impact is relatively evenly spread, though the centre of the borough has been affected less. Areas such as West Byfleet & Pyrford North, Old Woking & Westfield, and Sheerwater have been the most affected.

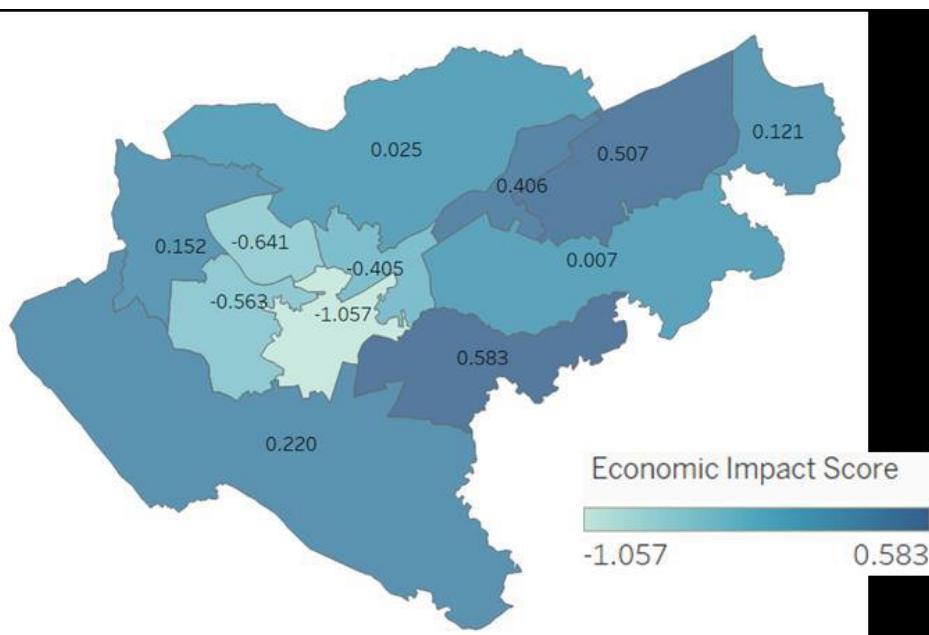


Figure 4: Shows the distribution of Covid-19 Economic Impact across MSOAs⁴⁰ in Woking (unemployment increases and people furloughed)

FAMILY AND SOCIAL SUPPORT

Family and social support are key determinants of health. They are particularly important for families (including single parent families) and people at risk of social isolation. There are

⁴⁰ Middle Layer Super Output Areas (MSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales.

over 14,000 single person households in Woking⁴¹ and this is projected to continue increasing. There are over 1,800 lone parents with dependent families in Woking.

Woking's planning strategy includes community facilities to support community cohesion and prevent isolation. The council seeks developer contributions to enable the provision of facilities or allocates land to enable the building of facilities.

The council also provides the following family and social support:

- Family Centres and Family Support Programme - these teams work with families and coordinate support across a range of areas including parenting, employment, education, physical and mental health, finances, healthy relationships, crime and anti-social behaviour. In the year to 9 March 2021, Family Centres received 168 referrals and supported a total of 297 children up to the age of 11. The main reasons for referrals were domestic abuse (32%), SEND (27%), and adult mental health including substance misuse (24%);
- Targeted youth work – the council runs targeted support jointly with Surrey County Council for; girls at risk of child exploitation, LGBT+ young people, children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), and young carers and looked after children. Approximately 50 young people are currently accessing services including mental health and wellbeing support, face-to-face sessions with youth workers, bereavement support, support with homework and Duke of Edinburgh Award programmes. Following a Surrey-wide consultation, the two Youth Centres in Woking (Sheerwater and WYAC) will be leased to local voluntary organisations during 2021. The council is also using feedback from looked after children and care leavers to shape the services available in the Centres for the Community;
- Centres for the Community - four centres across the borough (Moorcroft, Parkview, St Mary's and The Vyne) provide meals and activities for older and vulnerable residents. The centres are also used by health visitors for baby clinics and parenting support and for hairdressing, chiropody, reflexology and assisted bathing services. Before the pandemic the centres received over 20,000 visits each month and in 2019/20 more than 13,000 meals were provided. The majority of services at these centres have been closed during the most recent lockdown but the council has plans to reopen them in line with government guidance;
- Volunteer management and charity support – the council supports volunteers to register for placements and charities to recruit volunteers. There are currently 1,000 volunteers registered and seeking placements. Many of these charities support families and people who are socially isolated, and volunteering can help volunteers to stay physically and mentally active while also reducing their own social isolation. Volunteer Woking also provides a range of other services including funding support, training, governance advice and information and knowledge sharing, to more than 450 charities and community groups in Woking;
- Social Prescribing– this service links people with social, emotional and practical needs to a range of local non-medical support provided in the community. This is one of the six components of the comprehensive model of personalised care described in the NHS Long Term Plan, and is designed to help improve an individual's health, wellbeing and resilience. Social prescribing looks at all aspects of the wider determinants of health and recognises that if an individual is able to improve one area of their life, it can have a

⁴¹

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/adhocs/11415singlepersonhouseholdsbyenglishandwelshlocalauthoritiesandscottishcouncilareas2012to2018>

positive impact on other factors. The team receives referrals from a range of sources including GP surgeries, district nurses, and social care workers. They signpost people to local services and activities, and attend sessions with individuals who do not feel comfortable doing so on their own. The service is being further developed by extending referrers to include the ambulance service, mental health trust and the Job Centre. There has been an increase in referrals from an average of 31 referrals per month in 2019/20 to an average of more than 50 per month in the first ten months of 2020/21 with a noticeable increase in referrals of males living alone (81 referrals from this demographic in 2019/20 increased to 133 in 2020/21 as at 19 March 2021); and

- Arts – Woking has a cinema, two theatres and a drama studio (Ypod). A new small theatre and studio, which will be used by the Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts, is being built as part of the Victoria Place town centre development. The council's Arts Officer liaises with a wide range of community drama, singing, dance and arts groups throughout the borough and sits on the Surrey Arts Partnership Board. Activities including the community choir have been run virtually during the pandemic.

In addition, Surrey County Council runs a number of participation groups for care leavers that are open to Woking residents. 'Care Council' exists for 13-25 year olds who are in care or have left care, 'Care Council Juniors' for 8-13 year olds in care, fostering or under special arrangements and 'Surrey Care Leavers' Forum' for care leavers aged 18+. There are currently approximately 41 care leavers in Woking who are supported by an allocated worker.

Carers provide vital, unpaid support to many people. A carer is anyone (child or adult) who cares, unpaid, for a family member, partner or friend who due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without their support. There are almost 7,000 carers in Woking of which more than 2,000 are over the age of 65, and this figure is likely to be an under representation. Carers are twice as likely to suffer from ill health as non-carers and the council recognises the importance of supporting this group to enable them to continue in their caring roles.

Responding to the Carers UK's **State of Caring** 2018 survey, 72% of carers said they had suffered mental ill health and 61% said they had suffered physical ill health as a result of caring. 80% of people caring for loved ones said they had felt lonely or socially isolated. In March 2021, Public Health England published a report⁴² stating that as there is evidence that carers experience worse health than non-carers, unpaid caring responsibilities should be considered a social determinant of health.

It is estimated that an additional 4.5 million people in the UK have taken on caring responsibilities during the pandemic and it has been widely reported that the pandemic has increased pressure on carers. For example, the Carers Trust found that 40% of young carers and 59% of young adult carers reported worsening mental health since Covid-19. They also reported that 70% of young carers are providing more care during the outbreak - 11% of young carers and 20% of young adult carers reported an increase of 30 hours or more in the amount of time they spend caring per week.⁴³

Woking Council was the first district and borough in Surrey to sign up to the Together for Carers principles in March 2017, and the first to train staff to complete a carer's prescription which helps ensure that carers are provided with all available support. The council also

⁴² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/caring-as-a-social-determinant-of-health-review-of-evidence>

⁴³ <https://carers.org/downloads/what-we-do-section/my-future-my-feelings-my-family.pdf>

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signed up to the Young Carers Pledge in January 2020 to identify and support young carers living in the borough.

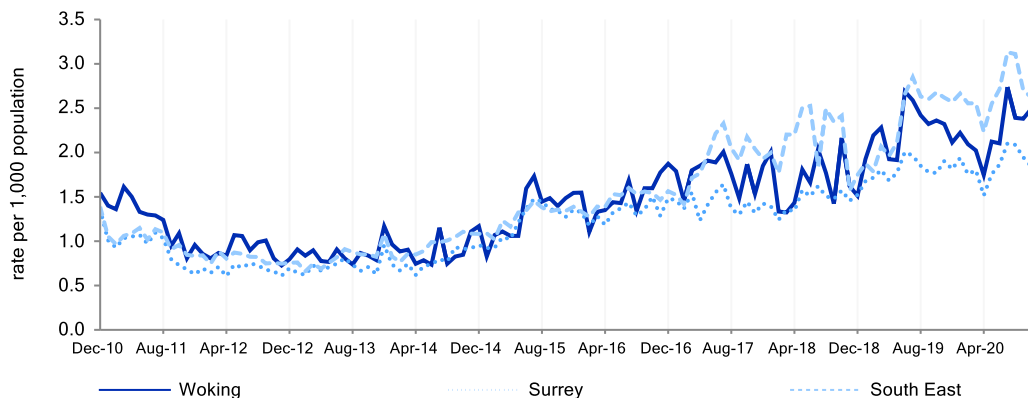
Over 1,400 adult carers in Woking are registered with Action for Carers Surrey, and approximately 1,100 of those are actively engaged, for example by attending social events or support events (currently provided virtually due to the pandemic). Action for Carers also supports over 300 young carers (aged 5-17) and 15 young adult carers (aged 18-24) in Woking. The council runs a Young Carers weekly club at Lakeview Centre for the Community and prior to the pandemic ran a Carers Choir and 'creative lunches' for people with dementia and their carers. In February 2021 Surrey Heartlands launched an end of life care website for carers - [Caring to the end](#). The council is promoting the website, which was co-produced with carers, to its residents.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Overall Woking is a safe place to live. However, the rate of violent crime (hospital admissions for violence) in Woking (34.9) is higher than the rate for the South East region (31.2) and is rising, as shown in the chart below, although it is lower than the England average (44.9).

Figure 5: Violent crime offences

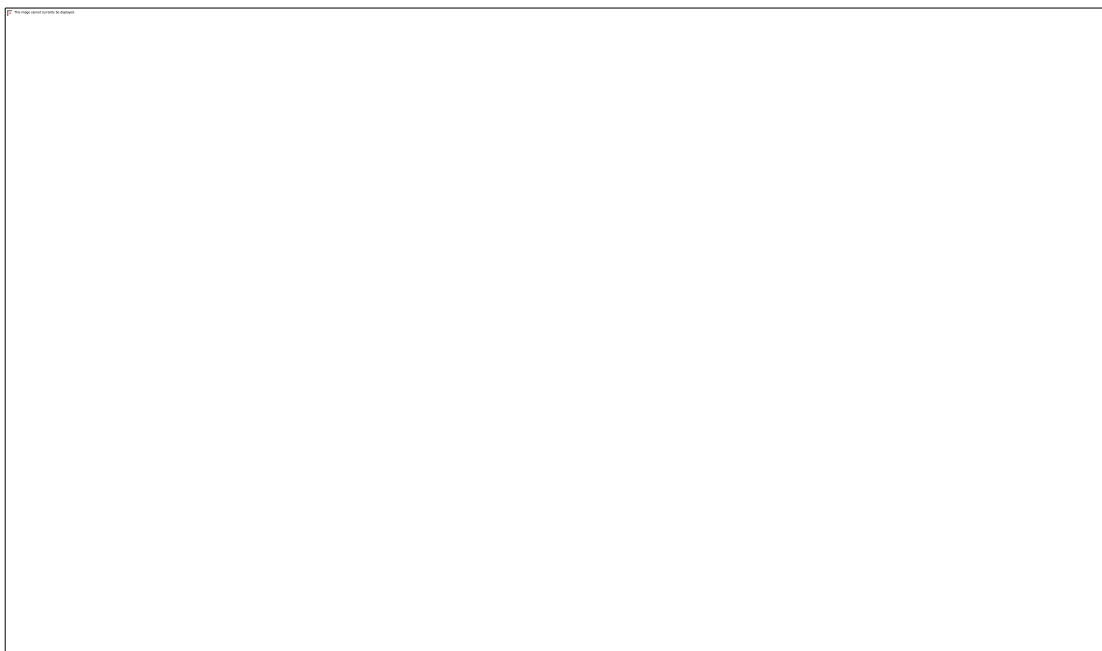
Source: <https://data.police.uk/>



Nationally one in three women and one in six men will experience an abusive relationship in their lifetime. Domestic abuse is considerably underreported but nevertheless there has been a year on year increase in the number of cases reported to Surrey Police now receiving an average of 1,000 reports each month across Surrey. There has been an 89% increase in Woking referrals to Your Sanctuary⁴⁴ in 2020/21 compared to the previous year, in line with the national picture. Your Sanctuary has heard from survivors that the lockdowns due to the pandemic have enabled perpetrators to increase levels of control and abuse (they do not believe that the lockdowns have made previously non-abusive people into perpetrators).

Your Sanctuary Domestic Violence Statistics 2019/20 and 2020/21

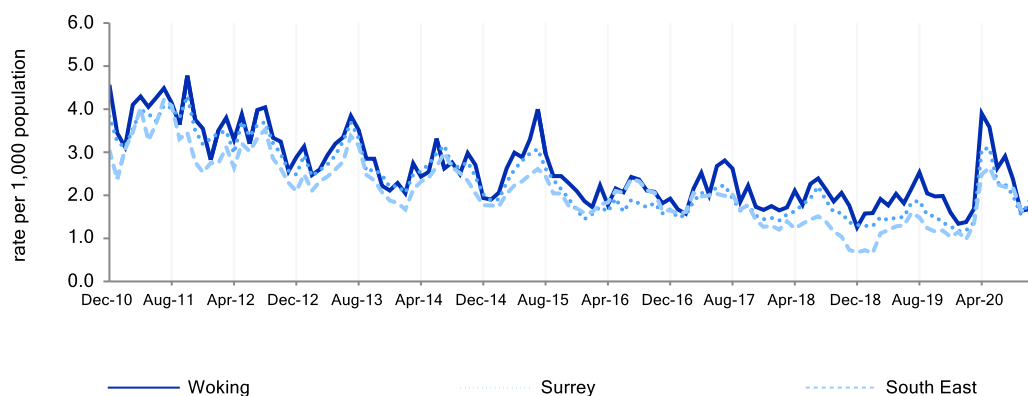
⁴⁴ Your Sanctuary provides specialist support services for survivors of domestic abuse, as well as their concerned families and friends, for further detail see page [54].



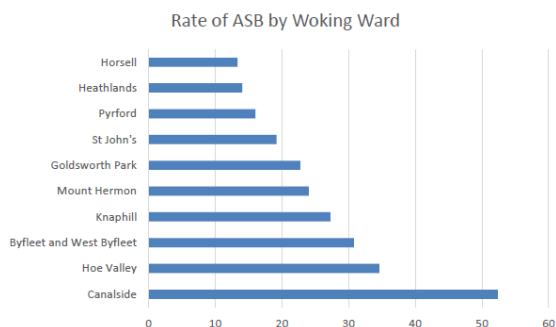
Woking's rate of anti-social behaviour (ASB) (29.3) is higher than the Surrey rate (27.1) but slightly lower than England (29.6). Woking's rate is the fourth highest in Surrey although it has been exhibiting a downward trend since 2010.

Figure 6: Anti-social behaviour offences

Source: <https://data.police.uk/>



Per ward, the breakdown is as follows:



Canalside has a significantly higher incidence of ASB than any other Woking ward, and with a rate of 52.8 it is ranked tenth compared to all wards in Surrey. It should be acknowledged that town centres are commonly the highest-ranking wards for this indicator. However, the Hoe Valley, Byfleet and West Byfleet, Goldsworth Park and Knaphill wards are all higher than the national, countywide and local rates for this indicator. It should be noted that this national dataset for ASB is based on police data and does not include ASB that has only been reported to the council.

Other types of crime, such as vehicle crime, criminal damage and burglary offences have remained reasonably static.

The Safer Woking Partnership was set up to help reduce crime in the area by promoting crime prevention initiatives and protecting the most vulnerable people in the community. As well as the council it includes representatives from Surrey County Council, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, the NHS, Surrey Police and Kent Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company. The [Safer Woking Partnership Plan](#) sets out the priorities, which include ASB. Due to the pandemic, the action plan for 2020/21 was not finalised as many of the planned engagement activities were not possible. The Partnership is in the process of developing its action plan for 2021/22.

[Woking Street Angels](#) are trained volunteers who, for the past ten years, have walked the streets of Woking town centre every Friday and Saturday night, from 10pm till 4am, to help night-time visitors have a safe experience in the town. Typically, they help those who are intoxicated, lonely, sick, vulnerable, troubled or sleeping rough, working with police, door staff, CCTV, the council and medical services. The council has supported Woking Street Angels with grant funding.

[Your Sanctuary](#) provides specialist support services for survivors of domestic abuse, as well as their concerned families and friends, and is a source of advice for local professionals. The council provides an annual grant to Your Sanctuary and has collaborated with Your Sanctuary on campaigns to raise awareness.

Environment

The built and natural environment refers to the physical environment. This includes: schools, workplaces, homes, communities, parks and recreation areas, green spaces (visible grass, trees and other vegetation) and blue spaces (visible water). The environment is a key factor which influences the health and wellbeing of local populations. For example, green infrastructure⁴⁵ can improve health through providing opportunities for physical exercise and boosting mental health by being in nature (termed 'biophilia') and the design of neighbourhoods can influence patterns of travel and social connectivity.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

15.9% of Woking is green space⁴⁶ which is higher than the averages for both Surrey (6.2%) and England (2.2%). However, public parks and gardens green space coverage is only 0.9%

⁴⁵ Green infrastructure includes parks, green spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, allotments, private gardens, green roofs and walls, sustainable drainage systems and soils. It also includes rivers, streams, canals and other water bodies, sometimes called 'blue infrastructure'.

⁴⁶ Ordnance Survey data which includes allotments or community growing spaces, bowling greens, cemeteries, religious grounds, golf courses, other sports facilities, play spaces, playing fields, public parks or gardens and tennis courts.

which is broadly in line with the average for England (0.8%) and lower than the Surrey average (1.8%).

The level of air pollutants (nitrogen dioxide, benzene, sulphur dioxide and particulates) in Woking is in line with the levels in Surrey and England. Levels for each of these pollutants do not exceed national standards for clean air.⁴⁷

Woking 2050⁴⁸ is the council's current climate change strategy, adopted in 2015. It sets out a vision to create a sustainable borough by reducing our environmental impact. In 2019, the council declared a climate emergency and pledged to become zero carbon across its own estate and operations by 2030. A Climate Emergency Action Plan (CEAP) was put in place, building on ongoing work to deliver the objectives of Woking 2050.

A key tool the council is using to deliver the CEAP is Planet Woking. This aims to engage local residents, schools and businesses and enable them to play their part in enhancing the sustainability of the borough, and ultimately in achieving our aim of carbon neutrality. The website provides useful resources on what the council has been doing to tackle climate change locally as well as ideas and inspiration for what residents can do at home or work to help lighten their environmental footprint. It also has a dedicated section for younger audiences, titled *Little Planet Woking*.

Natural Woking, the council's biodiversity and green infrastructure strategy, was adopted in 2016 and runs to 2050. It aims to promote and celebrate the borough's diverse countryside and urban environments, while enhancing accessibility to our natural habitats and wildlife. The Natural Woking strategy highlights the benefits that enjoying green spaces can bring including to health and wellbeing.

The council is a member of the Surrey Air Alliance, and works in partnership with Surrey District and Boroughs and Surrey County Council's Public Health and Highways Teams to improve air quality across the county. The council offers a free airAlert service which provides advance warning (by email, text message or voicemail) of high pollution levels to local residents who have respiratory problems such as asthma, COPD and emphysema. The council also participated in the School Air Quality programme which aimed to improve air quality by changing behaviours and encouraging more active travel. This involved raising awareness via theatre workshops for pupils, school travel planning and provision of cycle proficiency training.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Housing is a key component of the built environment which impacts the health and wellbeing of residents. The predominant housing tenure in Woking is owner occupation (71%), in line with the national figure. Woking is a very expensive housing market area and house prices have increased significantly over the last five years. The latest Land Registry data shows that the average house price of all property types in Woking borough was £425,728 in November 2020. This is a 10.3% (+ £39,687) increase since November 2015. The average house price in Woking remains significantly higher than the national average of £249,633.

The private rental sector accounts for 14.6% and social housing for 10.9% of all housing locally. The average private rent in Woking (£1,863 per calendar month) is lower than across

⁴⁷ The council monitors air quality across the borough by monitoring nitrogen dioxide levels via diffusion tubes. Each year the data from this monitoring is analysed and forms the Annual Status Report which is submitted to DEFRA for approval. These reports can be found at <https://www.woking.gov.uk/environmental-services/pollution/air-quality>

⁴⁸ <https://www.woking.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Nature/woking2050.pdf>

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Surrey as a whole (£2,074 pcm). However, rents are significantly above the Local Housing Allowance (Housing Benefit) for the area, which creates challenges for many residents to secure good quality affordable private rental accommodation. The latest HomeLet Rental Index⁴⁹ shows that average rental values in the South East have increased by 2.8% when compared to September last year. The table below gives a breakdown of asking rents for privately rented homes as of February 2021, together with the applicable Local Housing Allowance (LHA) and the potential shortfall between these figures.

	LHA month (pcm)	Average Asking Rent (pcm) February 2021	Potential Shortfall (pcm)
1 Bed flat	£847.68	£976.00	£128.32
2 Bed flat	£1,096.98	£1,291.00	£194.02
2 Bed house	£1,096.98	£1,261.00	£164.02
3 Bed house	£1,371.24	£1,542.00	£170.76
4 Bed house	£1,795.08	£2,042.00	£246.92

The council operates a range of private sector access schemes to assist residents in securing private rented accommodation.

The Let's Rent service procures and supports tenancy sustainment for households that are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The service provides advice and support to tenants and landlords, and incentives for landlords. 365 tenancies were secured by the Let's Rent service between 1 April 2020 and 28 October 2020.

The council owns 3,361 properties (including temporary accommodation and shared ownership) in the borough. In addition, the council's housing provider partners (including ThamesWey Housing Limited⁵⁰ and housing associations) own approximately 2,200 in the borough (including shared ownership properties). In January 2021, there were 1,108 active households on the housing register.

The majority of housing register applicants need one and two bedroom properties (41% and 31% respectively), with three or more bedroom properties comprising the remaining 28% of current need.

⁴⁹ <https://homelet.co.uk/homelet-rental-index/south-east>

⁵⁰ ThamesWey Housing Limited (THL) is an independent limited company wholly owned by the council. THL was established to support the Woking Borough Council Housing and Economic Development Strategies through the provision of additional residential accommodation of all types.

The council's Core Strategy set a reasonable target of providing an additional 1,737 affordable dwellings for the period of the plan (2013 to 2027), equating to an annual target of 102 new affordable dwellings per annum. Of these, 70% of new affordable dwellings should be in the rented tenure (social and affordable) and 30% at intermediate level (including shared ownership). The council is committed to continuing to work with Registered Providers, Thamesway Housing Limited and private developers to facilitate the provision of 102 new affordable homes each year, as well as, identifying new-build opportunities on council-owned land. 581 affordable dwellings have been delivered to date comprising 316 affordable/social rent dwellings and 261 intermediate dwellings. There are a further 436 affordable homes planned for delivery by 2023/24, including 74 as part of the Sheerwater Regeneration programme.

The **Sheerwater Regeneration programme** is a comprehensive programme on a 30 hectare site to deliver:

- 1,142 new homes (an increase of 570 with 619 open market and 523 affordable);
- Extensive new leisure facilities at Bishop David Brown School;
- New GP centre, dentist and pharmacy;
- New children's nursery;
- New community centre to replace the existing facilities at Parkview Centre for the Community;
- Eight new retail spaces;
- c. 3 hectares of new open space and parkland; and
- c. 0.3 hectares of new play areas.

This is a phased six-year build programme. Work started on site in July 2020 with a target completion date of July 2025. The council's commitments to residents within the regeneration area are detailed in a document titled **The Community Charter for the Sheerwater Regeneration**. The council believes these commitments represent an enhanced package of measures beyond those required by statute. A dedicated Sheerwater Regeneration Housing Support Team has been based on site since November 2017 to provide help, support, information and advice to the local residents required to move from their homes for the development. An Independent Tenant Adviser has also been appointed to give secure council tenants independent advice. Compensation payments are being made to secure tenants and owner occupiers who are willing to move in advance of their property being required for the development. A regular newsletter produced by the council keeps the local residents up to date.

The council is committed to working with the community to make the programme a success. In December 2020 WellNorth Enterprises facilitated a workshop for people to share ideas and aspirations. Together, they discussed approaches to develop community spaces in Sheerwater and improve the health and wellbeing of Sheerwater residents. There were representatives from local schools, Muslim and Christian faith groups, maternity services, GPs, family services, charities, community interest companies, retail businesses and the council. Focus groups have been formed to develop shared ambitions and pursue opportunities including new leisure facilities, centre for the community and co-located family support and health services.

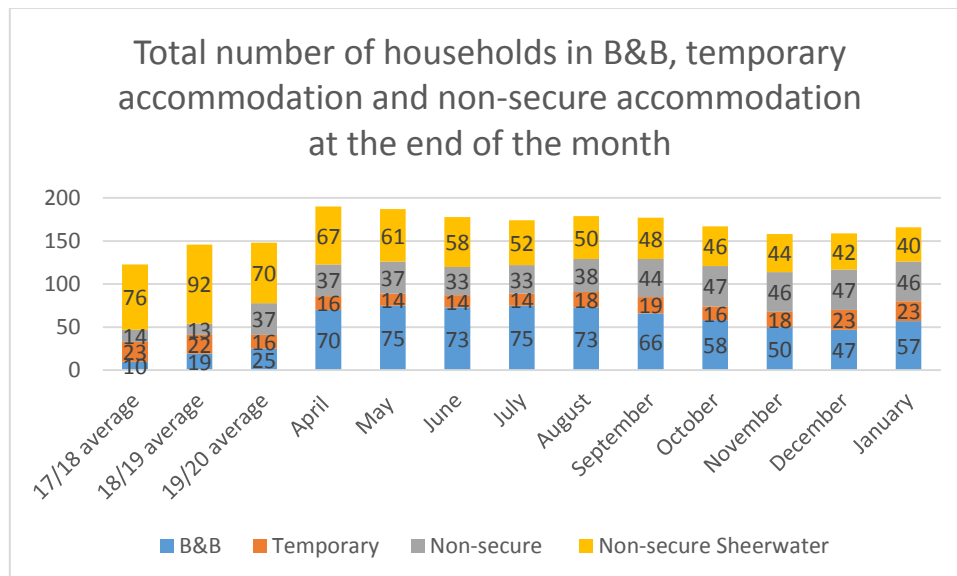
Overcrowding is an issue affecting 4.79% of households in Woking. This is the highest level in Surrey (which has an average of 3.43%) and only slightly lower than the average for England (4.81%). There are links between overcrowding and both homelessness and mental health issues. Repeated lockdowns due to the pandemic have exacerbated the mental health consequences of overcrowding as people have spent more time at home.

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The council is in the process of developing a housing strategy to cover the period 2021-2026 with the following priorities:

- Providing well designed high-quality homes that are affordable and meet local needs;
- Preventing homelessness and helping those in housing need;
- Helping people to achieve independence and wellbeing;
- Delivering an improved housing service to our tenants and leaseholders; and
- Enhancing choice, standards and quality within the private rental sector.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of households who are homeless in Woking. This includes families, single people, young people and people who are sleeping rough. This trend is also reflected nationally, and the increase has been accelerated by the roll out of Universal Credit and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017. At the end of October 2020, the council was accommodating 167 homeless households in some form of emergency accommodation. Typically, over the last 2 years, this number has been around 130 – 150. This increase reflects the additional numbers accommodated in hotels through the Covid-19 pandemic and the ‘Everyone In’ government initiative.



In the [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy](#) 2020-2024, the council sets out how it will work with partners to address homelessness in Woking and support residents in housing crisis. Actions will be targeted at delivering on the following four strategic priorities:

- Preventing homelessness and offering early help;
- Providing a range of accommodation options;
- Supporting vulnerable residents through partnership working; and
- Reducing rough sleeping.

Planning policy and guidance at a local and national level shapes the built environment. Surrey County Council has developed specific guidance, **Creating Healthier Built Environments**, to support and enable health and planning colleagues to share planning policy which addresses public health issues and embeds health and wellbeing into planning decisions.

Within Woking, the council undertakes a sustainability appraisal approach to any planning activity. This ensures that health and wellbeing are appropriately considered. The council’s planning strategy includes the integration of open spaces into development, securing spaces for recreation and ensuring sustainable alternative natural spaces.

The council provides a range of services to support Woking residents in their own homes. Given the forecast ageing of the population, there is an increased focus on assisting people over the age of 65 to be independent in their own homes. Services include:

- Homesafe Plus Service (a joint venture with Runnymede, Spelthorne and Elmbridge Borough Councils) – enables a safe, co-ordinated approach to a person’s discharge from hospital and provides support in the early weeks upon return home. These services may include community meals, handyman/home improvement services, social prescribing or informing the council of a housing need. The service receives approximately 250 referrals a year relating to Woking residents. In November 2020 NWS ICP approved further investment in this service (from Covid-19 contingency funds) providing a co-ordinator role;
- Independent Support Service – provides help with a wide variety of tasks (excluding personal care, domestic cleaning and gardening) to allow elderly and vulnerable people to remain independent and safe in their own homes for longer. This service provides support to anyone who needs it, for however long they need, regardless of their status as private renter, housing association tenant or owner occupier. The team supports approximately 450 Woking residents and works mainly with clients who have dementia, physical disability and mental health disorders, (including hoarding);
- Handyperson Service – supports quick hospital discharge and home independence. This free service (managed by Homelink) can action minor adaptations such as installing grab rails, undertake home security work including advice and installation of key safes, and undertake home safety checks to identify trip hazards and test smoke detectors. The service also offers a charged DIY service for minor repairs. The service received approximately 1,583 referrals for Woking residents in 2020/21 and completed an average of 132 jobs each month;
- Community Meals Service – provides cost effective, nutritionally balanced meals 365 days a year to enable people who find it difficult or impossible to prepare a meal to continue living at home. As a result of the pandemic there has been a more than 50% increase in demand for the community meals service compared to the previous year;
- Careline - supports people to continue living in their homes by installing community alarms, worn around the wrist or neck which summon assistance and provide confidence. There are approximately 1,800 Careline clients in Woking;
- Falls Responder Service - provides timely support to the 1,800 Careline customers in Woking in an emergency situation by sending a responder and specialist lifting equipment to return a fallen customer to a comfortable upright position within 60 minutes of their sounding the alarm. Work is also underway to develop an integrated approach that ensures an individual can be assessed at home rapidly, to prevent hospital admission. This involves assessing what services and equipment might be needed to support this. Although the service has been suspended during the pandemic, proposals are being considered to extend it across North West Surrey due to its success;
- Independent Living Schemes – there are 48 self-contained flats and communal facilities at Brockhill. 20 of these are included in the Surrey County Council extra care contract. This unique housing scheme in Goldsworth Park was designed to meet the needs of elderly residents by providing round the clock care, so that those with additional support needs can remain as independent as possible. Brockhill residents can benefit from day facilities, activities, lunches, a hair salon, chiropody and access to a large dining room where meals can be purchased daily. Hale End Court in Old

Woking will comprise of 48 units (12 with extra care) and is due to open in September 2021;

- Woking Independent Show Home (WISH) opened at Brockhill in December 2019 to allow people to experience different types of adaptations and assess the suitability of various aids and equipment that might enable them to live independently. WISH also showcases the latest smart technology allowing both carers and older people to see how they can benefit from, for example, voice activated heating and lighting, video doorbells and voice activated curtain rails. WISH is a multi-agency show room and the council works here with Adult Social Care and Sight for Surrey;
- Homelink - provides advice, support and assistance to elderly, disabled and vulnerable people in Woking who wish to improve or adapt their accommodation to continue living at home, or need assistance to carry out essential repairs. They work with those who own their properties or privately rent. This team also administers a selection of home improvement grants for disabled, elderly or vulnerable residents. The council's generous Housing Assistance Policy⁵¹ aimed at prevention enables wet rooms and stair lifts to be provided free of charge without means testing. The council's Disabled Facility Grant is currently the largest in Surrey at c. £1.2m per annum. The team receives an average of 16 enquiries and completes an average of 9 jobs each month;
- Woking Safer Living and Independence Consultancy Clinic (SLICC) - based at Brockhill and run jointly with Surrey County Council Adult Social Care Occupational Therapists, this service supports up to 200 people each year. Woking residents are invited to discuss mobility issues by appointment and trial equipment with an OT to remain independent within their own homes. A store of equipment is maintained at the clinic so that clients can take home what they require; and
- Home2Home Service - a service designed to assist owner-occupiers to downsize into more appropriate accommodation. This frees up family homes and enables residents to remain independent longer in a safe and secure manageable environment. The service is available to homeowners within the borough who are elderly, disabled or vulnerable and are unable to move without support as they have no relatives/carers who could assist them and would otherwise remain in accommodation inappropriate for their needs. Properties are initially offered to Thamesway Housing Limited to enable a quick buyer option and solution where appropriate. This service was introduced in early 2020 but has been paused during the pandemic.

Clinical care

The council has limited influence over the quality of clinical care. However, it can and does influence access to clinical care, for example through the provision of space for health services in the local community and ensuring that transport provides easy access to health services. In addition, the stigma surrounding mental health issues can prevent people from seeking help, and the council can play a role in reducing this.

The council does not provide any clinical physical health services, and these are primarily provided by the NHS. Social care services are provided by Surrey County Council. As of October 2020, Woking social care team was supporting 1,005 individuals and carers. This

⁵¹

<https://woking.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/HousingDocs/Housing%20Assistance%20Policy%20April%202019%20final.pdf>

includes the provision of residential, nursing, home-based care, supported living and direct payment packages to older people aged 65+ and people with a physical and sensory disability.

The council works in partnership to support delivery of these services to Woking residents. For example, in November 2020 outpatient physiotherapy services were relocated from Ashford and St Peter's Hospital to five new physiotherapy rooms at the Leisure Centre to improve access, provide the opportunity to link recovery programmes with exercise at the gym and encourage local residents to access facilities and activities they may not have previously used⁵². NWS ICP will be reviewing how and where care services are accessed, including reviewing further opportunities for services to be delivered in the community, as well as remote and virtual services. All of these changes should enable and encourage people and communities to manage their own health and care.

[Woking Community Transport](#) (Bustler / WCT) is a not for profit organisation run for the benefit of the community. WCT provides accessible door-to-door transport to those who would otherwise be socially excluded because of poverty, vulnerability, disability or age, including operating community services on behalf of the council. WCT completes in excess of 100,000 journeys per year. Core services include dial-a-ride (e.g. for shopping, doctor and hospital appointments), transportation to Centres for the Community and NHS patient transport. WCT featured in the 2020 Parliamentary Review (a series of independent publications aiming to share best practice among policymakers and business leaders), the first community transport organisation to do so.

A range of organisations are involved in providing mental health services including; Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, other NHS providers such as the GP integrated mental health service (which has had more than 200 referrals since launching in Woking in August 2020), Surrey County Council, and the third sector, (e.g. Woking Mind). A Mental Health and Housing Support Worker from Woking Mind now works within the council's housing department to provide advice and support for staff and service users, and reduce the impact mental health difficulties have on maintaining a tenancy.

The council, in partnership with other districts and boroughs, Surrey County Council, the Fire Service and other relevant agencies, is leading on the development of a Surrey-wide hoarding protocol. The protocol sets out a framework for an outcome focused, solution-based model, offering clear guidance for staff working with hoarders. Approximately 40 members of council staff received training on hoarding in autumn 2019. As part of the Sheerwater regeneration the council has identified a number of hoarding cases and is working with residents on a case-by-case basis to provide appropriate support.

In 2019, Woking was recognised by the Alzheimer's Society as the first Dementia Friendly Community in Surrey. A Dementia Friendly Community is a city, town or village where people with dementia are understood, respected, supported, and confident they can contribute to community life. Woking's Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) was established in autumn 2017 and has a broad range of members from statutory agencies, the council, voluntary organisations, community and faith groups, retailers, theatre and cinema complex businesses and banks. Since it was established, Woking's DAA has provided dementia awareness training for DAA partners, arranged a series of free dementia awareness sessions for members of the public, recruited six volunteer Dementia Champions and organised dementia friend sessions at Shah Jahan Mosque and local community groups.

The council has a range of services to specifically support residents with dementia including:

⁵² 30% of Woking residents have never visited the Leisure Centre.

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- Dementia Handyperson Scheme - installs assistance equipment to support people wishing to live independently at home free of charge, such as colour contrast grab rails and toilet seats;
- Palliative Grant Scheme (in partnership with Woking Hospice) - assists those nearing the end of their life to have emergency home adaptations enabling them to return to the comfort of their own home;
- 'Bright' brochure - promoting dementia services for residents living with the condition and their carers; and
- Dementia Action Week – a week-long annual programme of events and activities for people with dementia and their carers.

In addition, in 2017 the council became the first local authority in Surrey to pledge its support to carers looking after someone with dementia through the Carers Woking Together Memorandum of Understanding.

Local Committee Decision and Action Tracker

This tracker monitors progress against the decisions and actions that the Local Committee has made. It is updated before each committee meeting.

- Decisions and actions will be marked as '**open**', where work to implement the decision is ongoing by the Local/Joint Committee.
- When decisions are reported to the committee as '**complete**', they will also be marked as '**closed**'. The Committee will then be asked to agree to remove these items from the tracker. For some decisions the Committee and public will be able to monitor the progress through Surrey County Council website. A link to the webpage will be included on the item when marked as complete.
- Decisions may also be '**closed**' if further progress is not possible at this time, even though the action is not yet complete. An explanation will be included in the comment section. In this case, the action can remain on the tracker should the Committee request.

Ref number	Meeting Date	Decision	Status (Open/ Closed)	Officer	Comment or update
1	26 June 2019	Taxi Bays outside the station – WBC to look at the use of bays and the access for Taxis through the High Street under the Town Centre management	Open	WBC Town Centre Management	To come to the Committee in due course 24 Mar 21 - It was noted that the taxi rank bays in the town were still listed as outstanding and Councillor Kemp stated that he had been working with Borough Officers around the mix of disabled bays and taxi bays at the station.
2	4 March 2020	To look at the traffic and speeding issues on East Hill & Maybury Hill (including road surface)	CLOSED	AHM	On site visit proposed to look at the issues with residents. Maybury Hill has had traffic calming measures installed and speeds be reviewed as to their impact.
3	4 March 2020	Traffic and Parking issues in Oriental Road / College Road – including pavement parking and Enterprise cars unloading	CLOSED	Cllr Bittleston / AHM / Parking Team	Cllr Bittleston to undertake an initial discussion with Enterprise cars re loading / unloading of vehicles adjacent to the roundabout Further Double Yellow Lines to be considered under the 2020 parking review Awaiting parking review installations which should assist
4	11 Nov 2020	Sopwith Drive still needs a safer pedestrian crossing for access to Brooklands Community Park and Cherrylands Nursery	Open		It was agreed that further attempts would be made to try to secure cross boundary funding for this scheme
5	11 Nov 2020	Speeding and dangerous driving on Woodham Road	CLOSED		Officers were keen to work with residents to try to resolve issue. The Police investigation has concluded with no highway issue raised. W/C 22 May, speed monitoring was undertaken with

					mean speeds of 32.5, 29.7, 31.5. Based on mean speeds, this is not a priority area.
6	11 Nov 2020	Parking and traffic issues around Marshall Parade, Pyrford.	CLOSED		Liz Bowes is now working with Peter Wells on parking in this area
7	24 Mar 2021	Petition to 'review the traffic arrangements in Goldsworth Road at the junction with Poole Road, Woking, to prevent the access to McDonald's drive-through restaurant causing access problems	CLOSED		This problem has now been allieviated and although the area will continue to be monitored this will be taken off the tracker.
8	24 Mar 2021	Petition to 'trial the reduction in speed limit to 20 mph in White Rose Lane, Mount Hermon Road, York Road and roads ancillary to those roads.'			This would need to be subject to call in and if agreed a further report to the Committee at the next meeting, giving details of potential possible schemes for consultation, the costs involved and sources for funding and delivering these schemes.

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Joint Committee (Woking) - Forward Programme 2021/22

Details of future meetings			
<p>Future Dates for the Woking Joint Committee 2021: Wednesdays – 10 Nov 2021 and 9 Mar 2022</p> <p>The Committee meeting commences at 6pm. This forward plan sets out the anticipated reports for future meetings. The forward plan will be used in preparation for the next committee meeting. However, this is a flexible forward plan and all items are subject to change. The Joint Committee is asked to note and comment on the forward plan outlined in this report and offer suggestions for future agenda items.</p>			
Topic	Purpose	Contact Officer	Proposed date
Community Infrastructure Levy	Standing item for Woking Joint Committee with report back from the CIL sub group that approves bids under £15,000	Ernest Amaoko	ALL
Task Groups and Membership	Annual item		June 2021
Community Safety Annual Report	Annual item	Camilla Edmiston	Nov 2021
Annual Parking Review	Annual item	Peter Wells	TBC – March 2022?
Rights of Way item	Footpath 94 – Byfleet – proposed diversion	Daniel Williams	Nov 2021
Decision Tracker	For information	Partnership Committee Officer	ALL
Forward Programme	Review the Forward Programme and consider further themes for Member briefings	Partnership Committee Officer	ALL

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